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FBIS-NES-93-027 *11 February 1993*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Seeks Return of All Deportees

NC1002213793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1842 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has said that the Arab League's position on the deportees is principled; namely, that all should be returned to their homeland. He added: We will not concede this right, which is recognized by international legality. He called on Israel to fully implement Security Council Resolution 799 without any prevarication, bargaining, or procrastination. If Israel continues to refuse to comply with this resolution, the provisions of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter enforcing sanctions must be applied.

In a statement to the weekly AL-MUSAWWAR that will be published Friday [12 February], Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that the Security Council needs to live up to its responsibilities, not to apply double standards, and compel Israel to respect its resolutions as it does with other countries, something that we Arabs from the ocean to the Gulf can see.

He praised UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali's stand on the deportees, adding that his report to the Security Council recommends the adoption of all measures to ensure Israel's implementation of Resolution 799. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his full readiness to make his delayed trip to Marj al-Zuhur to visit the deportees whenever the Lebanese Government permits. He noted he recently received a written message from Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz asking him to give him some time before fixing a date for the visit and to wait for the outcome of the U.S. endeavors in this regard.

Significance of Christopher Mideast Tour Assessed

PM1002143793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Feb 93 p 11

[Ghassan Shirbil article: "Christopher, Baker, and the Keys: Christopher's Tour Is a Reminder of Some Hard Facts"]

[Text] James Baker's plane made many flights between the capitals of the Middle East before the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict were convinced that negotiations were their only option. First they had to be convinced that the Soviet Union was no longer a refuge nor a cover and that the man addressing them was the U.S. secretary of state and the foreign minister of the new world order, without forgetting that he also carried the UN keys. The parties to the conflict did not hesitate to board the Madrid train which set off under U.S.-Soviet sponsorship that soon became U.S.-Russian sponsorship, not that this meant that the two were equal.

When the new U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher begins his first tour of the Middle East around the middle of this month, the parties to the conflict will remember that he carries the same titles as Baker did. Yitzhaq Rabin knows that it was the Clinton administration which spared his government the possibility of facing Security Council sanctions. The other side [the Arabs] knows that there is no chance of getting a firm UN stand without U.S. approval. The deportees issue has demonstrated conclusively that the road to New York passes through Washington.

Naturally, the U.S.-Israeli deal on the deportees allowing their return in stages does not satisfy the Arabs, but that side should remember that the Arab-Israeli conflict is not the best arena for the implementation of Security Council resolutions. If implementation of these resolutions was possible, the peace negotiations would have been held under UN sponsorship and the negotiators would have gone to New York instead of Madrid.

Christopher will undoubtedly bring to the region some new "ideas" for the settlement of the deportees issue but in the context of compromise, in other words outside the Security Council framework. His primary concern will obviously be to bring the delegations back to the negotiation hall and ensure that the deportees issue does not eliminate the language of negotiation. Christopher will most probably remind everyone that their only option today is negotition and surmounting obstacles through more negotiation.

As was the case with Baker, the question to be asked as soon as Christopher arrives will be: What would anyone not opting for negotiation do? War is impossible and jumping off the Madrid train would be more costly than continuing the journey, bearing in mind that the United Nations is in the United States.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Intifadah, Deportation, U.S.

LD1002200193 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Address by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to the Palestinian people at home and in the diaspora on the occasion of the intifadah beginning its 63d successive month—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

O masses of our patient Arab nation! O masses of our struggling Palestinian people everywhere, inside and outside the homeland! O masses of the sacred revolution of stones! [passage omitted]

Here is our blessed Palestinian intifadah signalling with pure blood the new wave which is escalating with vigor, pride, giving and sacrifice, that has terrorized the occupying enemy and its command, which is ever possessed by the temper of the murderer and bloody history. This intifadah and this steadfastness has unveiled the ugly

face of the enemy which had tried to make the international community believe that it wants peace or is working for it. [passage omitted]

Rabin and his commanders thought that by escalating terrorism, killing, and repression they would be able to take this new wave of our blessed intifadah toward its conclusion. The mentality of terrorism has, furthermore, come up with further innovations. They have moved from punishment to mass punishment, from deportation to mass deportation, and now from killing to the mass killing of our children, people and our mujahidin. [passage omitted] Sons of the gallant intifadah: The reply of our people to the escalation by Rabin manifested a forward and distinguished display of the national struggle which is backed by an entrenched national unity under the PLO banner. This reply has gained absolute Arab and international backing by condemnation of the transfer crime and by the demand for respect of the UN Security Council resolution and human rights charters.

The deportation crime has raised the much more pressing and important issue, namely, the need to provide international protection, the need to provide international protection, the need to provide international protection for the sons of our people in the occupied Palestinian soil in the face of Israel's violation of international law. The campaign to murder children and the intensification of the operations of the assassination squad have come to deepen the feeling for the need to provide this protection. [passage omitted]

It is regrettable to see that the American stand, which we saw was persistent and enthusiastic about implementing Security Council resolutions in many regions of the world, resorted to bolstering Israel particularly after adopting a formula that dodges the implementation of the clear provisions of the aforementioned resolution. It was an attempt to lend a legal aspect to the principle of deportation which contravenes all international charters and resolutions.

If the deportation crime has dealt a shattering blow to the peace process, the American-Israeli deal and the continuing American support for Israeli policy are dealing a serious blow to the peace process with all that means in terms of bringing the area to the brink of a new tension and a new stage of instability whose dimensions, consequences, and aims are difficult to predict. Rabin found in it a big cover which led him to say frankly and impudently that the deportation measure will not be the last and that he is going to embark on a collective deportation operation of 100 others. In fact it gave him the opportunity to appeal against the Security Council resolution and against UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali's recommendations.

We are waiting for the new American Administration which should make a move in the manner which is in agreement with the slogans it has raised—yes, in the manner which agrees with the slogans it has raised and to which it declared its adherence concerning human rights and respecting and implementing the UN Security Council resolutions. The United States, Russia, and the entire international community shoulder the responsibility of imposing respect for implementing UN Security Council resolutions and for applying sanctions on Israel if it continues its refusal to implement them.

O sons of our great people, the consolidation of the unity of our national rank, the important, big, and comprehensive campaign carried out by the PLO, and the arrangement of forces and detachments within the Palestinian house under the banner of the PLO constitutes a starting point for reinforcing our intifadah. At the same time it turns the Israeli calculations and bets upside down. [passage omitted]

We are working to restore Arab solidarity and cohesion which was affected by the Gulf crisis leaving many wounds and divisions in the Arab homeland at a time when we are more in need than ever of this cohesion and solidarity so as to face up to the new international order without letting it be at our expense or at the expense of our coming generations. For history will not forgive. For history will not forgive.

We have the right to ask the following question: Which is the next Arab country to be targeted after Iraq and Libya which are showing steadfastness under siege. The siege of Iraq's children and its people, and also of the Libyan people. What after Somalia? The battle we, as an Arab nation, are facing now is a battle of being or not being. [passage omitted]

We are, in the fierce battle which we are waging, laying down the basic national lines and constants whose meaning should be grasped by everybody. We are aiming, within the framework of international legitimacy, at a peace which meets the legitimate national rights of our people, and we are opposing terroristic and blackmailing attempts against us. We want to confirm with our struggle and our intifadah the firm facts that there will be no peace without meeting Palestinian national rights in conformity with the resolutions of our national councils. All the conspiracies will be shattered on the rock of the people's steadfastness, and Rabin and his allies will understand that there is no one of us or among us who will relinquish the least bit of the homeland's soil or holy Jerusalem. Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine, and we have no doubts, brothers, about the arrival of this state. [passage omitted]

Your brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]

PLO Official on Hamas, Deportees, Israel

NC1102090593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0726 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Rabat, 11 Feb (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, has praised President Husni Mubarak and Egypt's position on the Palestinian issue and the case of the deportees. He asserted that Egypt's stance does not deserve "criticism,"

noting: We are aware of and appreciate President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian Government's efforts to secure the deportees' return.

In an interview with MENA, Abu-Mazin asserted that the PLO and the Palestinians rely greatly on Egypt's backing for their position, its support for the peace process, and its efforts to eliminate obstacles to it.

Abu-Mazin disclosed that during his recent visit to Baghdad, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat discussed the return of the Kuwaiti POW's from Iraq as a primarily humanitarian issue. He added that 'Arafat is attempting to normalize inter-Arab relations and secure an end to the tension resulting from the Gulf war.

Discussing the peace negotiations, Abu-Mazin said there is no prospect of resuming these talks before the deportees case is solved, noting that the United States must either find a solution to it or let the UN Security Council adopt sanctions against Israel until the deportees are allowed to return.

On the relations between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the PLO, Abu-Mazin said Hamas is an existing Palestinian movement that can join the PLO if it wishes but on the condition that it accept the majority view within the PLO supporting negotiations. He declared that when Hamas calls for halting the negotiations and sets this as a condition for joining the PLO, then it will have no place within the organization.

Abu-Mazin revealed that there had been a plan to hold Palestinian-Israeli meetings in various countries to promote mutual understanding but the PLO decided to halt all such contacts until the Israeli Government allows the deportees to return.

On the results of his current visit to Morocco, Abu-Mazin said its purpose is basically related to the deportees issue and the Security Council's discussions about it, particularly as Morocco is the current Security Council president. He noted that in view of this it was necessary to consult and coordinate with King Hassan II over the peace process and the prospects and means of surmounting any obstacles in its path.

Concerning the status of Jerusalem, the Palestinian official said the PLO's position on this matter is clear: Jerusalem, which was occupied in 1967, is Arab territory, and as for the holy shrines, they must be open to adherents of all heavenly religions.

Asked about Russia's position on the peace talks and whether its domestic developments and problems have caused it to neglect its Middle East role, Abu-Mazin remarked: We are dealing with Russia as the second sponsor of the peace conference. We notice that despite its problems, it is devoting part of its attention to the Middle East issue, particularly the Palestinian cause.

He recalled a recent exchange of visits by Russian and Palestinian officials, noting that the chairman of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East and North Africa Department visited Tunis two weeks ago. Abu-Mazin said he will visit Moscow in the next two weeks.

On Jewish emigration to Palestine, Abu-Mazin said it has not stopped but has been reduced, regrettably not as a result of any Russian measures but as a result of the trauma Jewish immigrants undergo when they reach Israel and they suffer. He remarked that Jewish immigration to Israel is a U.S.-led international formula and consequently those Jews find it difficult to go anywhere other than Israel.

Israel Accused of Ordering Use of Bullets

LD1002211293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Excerpt] A Palestinian legal body has accused the occupation authorities of ordering [Israeli] soldiers to redouble firing bullets at Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories.

The Israeli Betzelem human rights association yesterday made a similar accusation against Rabin's government. It said that the rise in the number of children hit by bullets was estimated at 180 percent. In a report published yesterday, the Gaza Center of Rights and Law said that in January there was a continuation of serious violations of the rights of Palestinians in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Says Cordon States Meeting Postponed

JN1102102093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Feb 93 p 28

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the steering committee for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has stated that the Damascus meeting by the foreign ministers of the cordon states of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine in addition to Egypt has been postponed until after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East to start on 17 February. In a statement to AL-RA'Y following his return from a visit to Romania that lasted several days and before returning to occupied Palestine, al-Husayni said the deportees issue should be settled and that a Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is under way on this issue and its results will be known within the next few hours.

He added: We are trying to make the Americans change their stand and convince them that the Israeli measure to repatriate 100 deportees does not conform to UN Security Council Resolution 799.

Faysal al-Husayni said: We believe that the Israeli decision to repatriate some of the deportees is insufficient, and neither responds to nor is in line with UN Security Council Resolution 799. He affirmed that by remaining unsolved, the deportees issue will hamper the resumption of the negotiations in Washington.

Al-Husayni denied meeting with Israeli officials or Palestinian Knesset members during his Romania visit, emphasizing that the sole purpose of the visit was to benefit from Romania's technical expertise.

Al-Husayni also denied that the U.S.-Palestinian contacts by Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi and the Palestinian-Romanian contacts he had are a resumption of the negotiations but on another level, affirming that the Palestinians are eager to resume the negotiations in Washington.

Concluding his statement to AL-RA'Y, al-Husayni affirmed that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi is still the head of the Palestinian delegation, that he heads the negotiations, and that his presence in the United States is for family reasons.

Faysal al-Husayni will leave Amman for occupied Palestine this morning.

Fatah Committee To Meet Before Christopher Visit

JN1102114793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Feb 93 pp 24, 18

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpt] Palestinian diplomatic sources in Amman have said that the Fatah Central Committee will meet in Tunis on Sunday [14 February]. The meeting precedes U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the Arab region expected to start on 17 February.

The sources told AL-DUSTUR that the Central Committee will discuss three main topics: The political situation in the Arab and international arena, the Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur, and the PLO's efforts to restore Arab solidarity, not to mention the state of affairs in the occupied territories in light of the Rabin government's policy of killings and repression, and the appropriate means to develop the intifadah.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will brief the Central Committee on the details of the results of his tour of Amman, Baghdad, and Cairo and his contacts with several European officials. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Thanks Khasbulatov for Russian Support

LD1002190093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Brother President Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] today sent a letter to Ruslan Khasbulatov, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, concerning joint coordination between the Russian and Palestinian parliaments. The letter, handed over by brother Nabil 'Amr, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Russia, included a briefing on the situation in the region in light of Israeli intransigence in implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy and the continuing issue of the brother deportees, which has obstructed the peace process in the region.

In his letter, the brother president also thanked the Russian parliament for its stances in support of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people in their just struggle to end the Israeli occupation and Russia's valuable efforts of supporting the peace process in its capacity as a co-sponsor of the peace talks.

It is worth noting that brother President Abu-Ammar had previously sent a similar letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

PLO Representative on Deportees, Hamas

PM1102110893 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 7 Feb 93 p12

[Interview with Nimr Hammad, PLO representative in Italy, by Umberto de Giovannangeli; place and date not given]

[Text] "Every day in the refugee camps, in the universities in the occupied territories, and in Palestinian social organizations, we clash with Hamas; we dispute its ideas and its actions. But all of that has nothing to do with the affair of the 415 deportees in no-man's-land. Before being Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members—and most of them do not belong to that group—they are Palestinians who have been expelled from their land in contempt of international law. That is why we are calling for their total repatriation." Those are the words Nimr Hammad, PLO representative in Italy. In this interview, Hammad argues against the assertions made by Israeli Ambassador Avi Pazner in an article in yesterday's L'UNITA.

[De Giovannangeli] Ambassador Pazner accuses the PLO of being alongside Hamas. How do you answer this serious allegation?

[Hammad] The Hamas fundamentalists are not part of the PLO, indeed they openly dispute its political line and methods of struggle. 'Arafat himself has been accused several times by Islamic extremists of "treason" and of "collusion with the Zionists" because he has upheld the policy of dialogue. But the Israeli ambassador pretends not to know this. He chooses rather to exploit the deportees affair for reasons of expediency...

[De Giovannangeli] Why "for reasons of expediency?"

[Hammad] Because he knows full well that those 415 men are first and foremost Palestinians torn away from their land illegally. Because he knows full well that for the PLO to accept this mass expulsion would mean endorsing the principle, dear to the Israeli right, that the Palestinians in the occupied territories are simply a foreign community resident in Gaza and on the West Bank. What we are standing up for today is a people's right not to be subject to the will of an occupying

country. Our call for total repatriation of the 415 deportees is based on the principle of international law and the rights of the individual. And this, unfortunately for Avi Pazner, has nothing to do with Hamas' extremist ideas.

[De Giovannangeli] "No Jew is innocent, all Jews must be killed." That is a quote from Hamas' founding charter. What do you think of it?

[Hammad] I think it is an aberration, and as such the PLO and the majority of Palestinians are fighting it, inside and outside the occupied territories. But Hamas fundamentalism is not the only fundamentalism threatening the peace process in the Middle East today; because the fundamentalism present in the Jewish camp, which Ambassador Pazner prefers to keep quiet about, is no less dangerous. In the Israeli parliament, in the streets of Israel, there are active political groups clamoring for "Arab-bashing" and for whom "the only good Palestinian is a dead Palestinian." In many cases threats have been followed by actions, but no Jewish fundamentalist has ever been expelled from Israel. Some of these parties formed part of the Shamir government in the past and are now conditioning the Labor government's actions. In their program they talk openly of "forced expulsion of all Palestinians from Greater Israel." Palestinian fundamentalism is also the result of Jewish fundamentalism, or at any rate it is its mirror image. For Ambassador Pazner not to recognize that shows serious political and intellectual shortsightedness. But one thing is certain: By the act of expulsion, Yitzhaq Rabin has increased Hamas' strength, putting all those in the occupied territories who support the policy of negotiation in serious difficulty.

[De Giovannangeli] So the brief season of dialogue between the Israelis and the Palestinians is fading amid violent exchanges of accusations and threats to abandon the negotiating table?

[Hammad] There can be no doubt that the peace process is undergoing a dangerous regression. We still believe in dialogue, however. This is still the PLO's policy, despite Hamas and Yitzhaq Rabin's intransigence. Clarity: That is what we are asking the Israelis for; because without clarity, "dialogue" is an empty, meaningless word, an unbearable deception. Among the many words used by Pazner in his article, there is one missing which we Palestinians have been waiting for a long time for the Israeli Government to pronounce: occupation. Because Gaza and the West Bank are occupied territories, because the Palestinians are a people who claim a land in which to found their own state, not a minority asking for generic recognition. Of course we know that there will need to be a transitional phase in which to put possible cohabitation between two peoples in Palestine to the test. We are prepared to put this transitional autonomy to the test. But we ask Rabin for clarity on the outcome of this process. And above all, we ask for full implementation of the UN resolution (799) on the deportees. That is a request which we address first and foremost to the United States. President Clinton has placed respect for human rights at the center of his international policy. Well, these rights are daily denied not only to the 415 deportees but to the Palestinian people. The new American Administration's credibility in the Middle East, in the Arab world today, depends on Gaza and no-man's-land. I hope Clinton is fully aware of that.

Algeria

Opposition Leader on Political Situation

PM1102114093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Feb 93 p 12

[Interview with Hocine Ait-Ahmed, secretary general of the Algerian Socialist Forces Front, by Qasiyy Salih al-Darwish; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Darwish] A year has elapsed since the announcement of the state of emergency, over a year since President Chadli Bendjedid's resignation, and over six months since Boudiaf's assassination. How do you view what has been happening since the beginning of 1992?

[Ait-Ahmed] It is a black page in our country's post-independence history. It is experiencing the most difficult of conditions. This is because the announcement of the state of emergency after the abolition of the democratic process have not resolved Algeria's security, economic, or political problems. On the contrary, these problems have worsened, and I am very concerned about my country's future.

All the security measures taken have complicated the situation even further. Suffice it to say that the Algerians are in complete despair, and despair is nothing but inability to visualize the future. Algeria is in a complete dilemma now. And all the political measures taken since the abolition of the electoral process have proved that the rulers' prime preoccupation is to remain in power, whatever the price; and regrettably, the price has been very heavy. [passage omitted]

[Al-Darwish] But do you not believe that the state of emergency was necessary after President Bendjedid's resignation and what followed it? And was there another way to tackle the situation?

[Ait-Ahmed] I believe that the abolition of the democratic process and the arbitrary decisions that followed were a big mistake. Because Algeria was qualified to tackle the political problems resulting from the results of the parliamentary elections. Proof of this is the huge demonstration for which I called on 2 January 1992 after the first round of the legislative elections. That important event is evidence that there was a peaceful democratic alternative, regardless of electoral developments. [passage omitted]

[Al-Darwish] Do you not believe that your reading of the election results is similar to the present regime's reading, and that this reading justifies in one way or another the decision to cancel the elections. Is it reasonable that a minority representing just 23 percent of the voters should take power and make radical changes in the state? Furthermore, do you not believe that you are belittling the importance of the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS], as independent observers and foreign journalists believe that it indeed represents an electoral majority on the scene?

[Ait-Ahmed] Fundamentally, our reading differs completely from that of the rulers. Because these, especially those who nominated themselves directly, suffered a devastating defeat. And the Algerian people proved their strong opposition to the regime. And you know that we warned the Ghozali government, which had promised Algeria to hold free, impartial, and clear elections, of the danger of the election law. We proposed openly that the election law be based on proportional representation on the basis of the provinces, not at national level.

[Al-Darwish] And would that have prevented FIS' victory?

[Ait-Ahmed] With that result? Impossible. Many parties agree with our proposal now. As for the second part of the question, I do not belittle the importance of FIS' influence. Nor do I believe that it was not a party based on a program and a plan. But it combined several tendencies, and the democratic process could help to produce a moderate tendency that renounces violence and respects the Constitution. From our knowledge of the extremist movements' experiences we know that repression unites their ranks, whereas freedom exposes their contradictions. [passage omitted]

[Al-Darwish] But some groups and sectors were worried that FIS' assumption of power would destroy national unity and lead to a Lebanese-style civil war.

[Ait-Ahmed] The rulers' prime preoccupation is to remain in power and to return the same regime on new foundations. And these delusions are nothing but an attempt to justify their policy aimed at destroying democracy in Algeria. I have never in my life been worried about Algeria's future and unity more than I am today. This is because it is the repressive policy alone which could lead to all the disasters to which you refer, that is with the exception of the question of "Lebanonization," which has no basis in Algeria. Algeria is experiencing a hidden earthquake from which we must extricate ourselves as soon as possible.

[Al-Darwish] How?

[Ait-Ahmed] Through dialogue: true dialogue, not the dialogue to which successive governments have accustomed us. By dialogue I mean mutual respect between representatives of the authorities and representatives of the parties. [passage omitted]

[Al-Darwish] Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi announced what appeared to be a program in his 14 January speech. What is your opinion of this program?

[Ait-Ahmed] The Socialist Forces Front Executive Committee defined the party's position, and we did not expect much from that speech. And as far as public opinion is concerned, the mountain went through the labor pains and gave birth to a mouse, as the proverb says.

Nothing is new except a referendum plan whose content we still do not know. And a referendum on what? On the Constitution apparently. What is strange is that they want to amend the Constitution, when they do not

respect it. Proof of this is that he did not reveal his intention of respecting the period stipulated by the Constitution, that is the end of 1993.

[Al-Darwish] But what is your opinion of the question of amending the Constitution being raised in some sections of the regime?

[Ait-Ahmed] Our party's basic principle is to let the people have their say and to refer to popular legitimacy. We have had enough of the revolutionary legitimacy and historic legitimacy. We should manifest the historic pledge, that is the election of a constituent assembly. [passage omitted]

[Al-Darwish] And whom will that constituent assembly comprise?

[Ait-Ahmed] Deputies directly elected, provided that the elections are really free and impartial. And this requires a revision of the election tickets and the election atmosphere in general, and it requires before that the formation of a neutral government acceptable to everyone.

[Al-Darwish] And what is your opinion of what is being said about a plan or the intention to amend and expand the Higher State Council and the Consultative Council to guarantee a more balanced representation?

[Ait-Ahmed] The Algerians are tired of the games played by the organs, the struggle among the [regime's] leaders, and the attempts to buy this or that figure. The only aim of these calculations is to play for time. There is no real political plan except the desire to remain in power. [passage omitted]

[Al-Darwish] You are accused of being automatically hostile to the army?

[Ait-Ahmed] (Interrupting) How could I be hostile to the army, when my concern now is for the army to be safe from the sinister consequences which that blind policy could have. I proposed in the past, and I propose once again, that the army take part in running a transitional democratic phase. Do you think that those who are pushing the army's command toward isolation and an impasse really love the army?!!

[Al-Darwish] Whom do you mean by that? Abdessalam Belaid?

[Ait-Ahmed] He is not the only one. With regard to him, he has added a new excuse for abolishing the democratic and electoral process, namely that three or five years are needed to solve economic problems. It is strange for such an excuse to come from a person who has been in government for about 15 years. How can he solve in three years problems he could not solve in 15 years, during which he achieved what I can term "the miracles of failure," that is taking into consideration Algeria's income and capabilities at that time and which are not available today?!!

Abdessalam Belaid's position appears surrealistic, as he behaves as though he does not owe his existence in power to the army, when in fact he owes everything to it. And as there are people like him in power, how can people believe the talk about change and democracy?

[Al-Darwish] There have recently been reports of contacts between you and the National Liberation Front and FIS abroad. And you made similar contacts after the results of the first round of the elections on 26 December 1991. What was the aim of recent contacts, if there were any?

[Ait-Ahmed] First of all the talk about contacts made recently is absolutely untrue. Everyone knows that since the October 1988 incidents rumors have become a weapon and a main political action tool for some people. All the contacts I made in Algeria before and after the elections were public. It is a traditional activity in political action. [passage omitted]

[Al-Darwish] It is clear that the security situation has deteriorated very much in recent weeks, and there are heavy losses among the security forces. Do you believe that this deterioration has undermined the dialogue idea and that this idea has now been overtaken by events and the reality?

[Ait-Ahmed] As a patriotic Algerian who has not forgotten his people's suffering and the sacrifices they made for the sake of regaining their freedom and dignity, I consider the killing of any Algerian—military, civilian, or police—a big disaster. And as a democratic person, I definitely refuse to resort to violence in political action, any kind of violence: assassination... use of arms... terrorism.... I also do not accept intellectual terrorism or disrespect for political promises and election dates. [passage omitted]

We have ahead of us one unavoidable option: Either the dialogue logic, which I called dialogue for historic reconciliation, or the the scorched earth logic. I believe that the dialogue logic still has a chance, provided we do not delay.

Minister Wants Tangible OPEC Production Cut

LD0902225193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] In an exclusive interview to the weekly ALGERIE ACTUALITES, published today, Energy Minister Hacene Mefti says that the latest proposal by some OPEC countries to cut the organization's overall production by about 1 million barrels a day is not sufficient. Mr. Mefti expresses the hope that member countries will make sure that any improvement in prices is achieved through a tangible reduction in oil output.

In the course of his interview he says he expects consensus in order to modulate the situation of the oil market, which is deteriorating as a result of the massive oil glut.

Officers Sentenced in Embezzlement Case

LD1002214093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2100 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Major General Beloucif has been sentenced to 15 years imprisonment in addition to the confiscation of his two Algiers residencies. Lieutenant Colonel El Habre has also been sentenced to 15 years imprisonment. As for Dr. Benchoufi he has been sentenced to life imprisonment.

Egypt

U.S. Urged To Alter Position Toward PLO

NC1102094593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR expresses astonishment at the continuing U.S. position toward the PLO, describing it as a riddle that baffles international political experts. The paper explains that this position was adopted many years ago and the reasons for adopting it have been replaced by other reasons requiring a different position.

In its editorial today, AL-AKHBAR says: While the U.S. position was somewhat understandable in the past, its persistence is unnatural and perverse, particularly in view of the announcements by successive U.S. administrations about their profound interest and strong wish to achieve lasting Middle East peace and conclusively settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

AL-AKHBAR notes that the Palestinian issue is the Arabs' foremost cause and the chief qualification for any mediator is that he should be on good terms with all parties to the conflict. It notes that the U.S. position lacks this prerequisite.

The paper voices hope that Clinton's administration will take it upon itself to correct this faulty situation if it really wishes to help restore peace to this vital region.

U.S.-Israel 'Deal,' Peace Process Pressures Viewed

NC1102094193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0608 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has said that the pressure on the peace process from every direction will be at the expense of regional peace and stability.

In its editorial today, the newspaper says there seems to be no practical way out of the crisis other than to have Israel back down on its policies, which go against human rights, and submit, like other countries, to Security Council resolutions.

AL-AHRAM points out that the pressures from every direction, each one pushing toward a different path, explain the stalemate in the peace process, which could continue for some time.

The newspaper lists the pressures, noting the pressure resulting from continuing Israeli stubbornness not to implement Security Council Resolution 799, which stipulates the return of the deporters. The paper notes attempts to circumvent this resolution through talk of an American-Israeli deal that allows the return of a hundred of them and decreases the deportation period for the rest.

AL-AHRAM describes this deal as expressing U.S. bias and revealing disregard for international resolutions on the question of Palestine.

The paper says there are counter-pressures resulting from an American-Israeli desire to market this deal and flaunt the American right to use veto to prevent a resolution imposing sanctions on Israel, while stepping up pressures on the negotiating Arab sides, especially the Palestinian, to take part in the settlement round expected to be held soon.

Foreign Minister Musa Leaves for Djibouti

NC1002140293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo today for a two-day visit to Djibouti.

In a predeparture statement, Musa said he will deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak for Djibouti President Hassan Gouled. He added that his talks in Djibouti will deal with several topics, including the situation in the Horn of Africa, bilateral relations, and the revival of the work of the joint higher committee.

Musa affirmed the importance of the work of the joint committee from the standpoint that Djibouti is a member of the Organization of African Unity, the Arab League, and the UN Security Council.

Kuwaiti Parliament Speaker Arrives, Makes Statement

NC1002142793 Cairo MENA in Arabic GMT 10 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—Kuwaiti Parliament Speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun and his accompanying delegation arrived here this morning on a four-day visit as part of a tour of some Arab states. [passage omitted]

In response to a question, al-Sa'dun said upon arrival that in principle, there must be an alternative to the Joint Arab Defense Pact, and the Damascus Declaration could be the best alternative. However, we have to give the declaration more of a chance. The details of this declaration, including the observations made on it, must be made public and submitted for debate. He pointed out that the Kuwaitis must know the details of any security agreement concluded, including the Damascus Declaration. He explained that the declaration must be submitted for a free discussion by all the people connected with it. He noted that not all the details of the Damascus Declaration have been made public and the commitments and duties of each member state have not been

defined. He pointed out that he has reservations over all the security agreements concluded by Kuwait, including the Damascus Declaration. At the same time, he stressed that the implementation of the Damascus Declaration is a duty, adding that the differences are only over the details. [passage omitted]

Tunisian Ruling Party Official Begins Visit

NC1102090793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Chedli Neffati, secretary general of the Tunisian ruling Democratic Constitutional Assembly, and a delegation arrived in Cairo last night on a official four-day visit to Egypt.

He stated that he will convey an oral message from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to President Husni Mubarak dealing with bilateral ties and some issues of mutual interest.

Neffati is also scheduled to hold meetings with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur, and National Democratic Party Secretary General Dr. Yusuf Wali.

'Odd' Iranian Media Campaign Criticized

NC1002221693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1845 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "Tehran Is Once Again Passing Immoral Judgment"]

[Excerpts] In a peculiar report, Tehran radio said Egyptian security forces arrested a number of Egyptians jeopardizing the nation's security and stability. What did Tehran radio want us to do? Egyptian security forces confront the outlaws. Is this an infringement on freedom, democracy, or human rights? We know that curbing the hotbeds of violence and terror is a service to Egypt, its peace and stability, and Egyptian citizens, who are entitled to a life of peace and stability and who do not wish to see the outlaws undermine their livelihood. They have placed their faith in the security services' ability to protect their safety and their country's stability.

It is odd how Tehran radio tries to make points on such an issue. We would like to point out that the Egyptian security forces have never organized public hangings, a method favored by the mullahs' regimes. The Egyptian security forces, while confronting terror and violence, are acting within the law. The Egyptian forces do not believe in summary executions. Even if they did, no one would blame them as long as they are acting in defense of peace and stability.

The Iranian media are looking for a pretext to attack Egypt. In their muckraking, the Iranian media dispose with the formalities of establishing a case or providing coherent evidence. The Iranian media have made a particularly big issue over an outlaw attack on a tourist bus in Dayrut. Regrettably, those who commit violence and terror are the ones the Iranian misinformation agencies label revolutionaries. Are armed attacks against innocent people synonymous with revolution, freedom, or principles? Or is the Tehran media advancing the cause of a revolution of butchers, who believe in bloodshed and murder as a way to achieve their goals? If this is the revolution the Iranian misinformation organs hail as Islamic, we have to point out that Islam, a religion of generosity and tolerance, is a far cry of the immoral and opportunistic practices of certain people who wish to undermine the stability of a peaceful society, to control its future and resources. [passage omitted]

The campaign waged by the Iranian misinformation agencies against Egypt is nonsensical and deceptive. Its aim is to divert the attention of Iranian citizens from the unbearable facts of their miserable existence under the so-called Iranian revolution. Those who play with fire and turn religion into a racket will not get away with it for long.

People's Assembly Committee Visits Hala'ib

NC1002164793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Shalatayn, 10 Feb (MENA)—Members of the People's Assembly's Defense and National Security Committee have made the first visit by a parliamentary committee to the cities of Shalatayn, Abu Ramad, and Hala'ib. The goal of the 13-hour visit was to assert Egypt's sovereignty over its entire soil up to the 22d parallel and refute any allegations that Egypt has no claims in this region.

In a popular rally held in Shalatayn, Committee Chairman Kamal Henry Badir highlighted Egypt's complete eagerness to maintain the long-standing ties that link the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples. He said that the fact that this region is Egyptian is beyond doubt, in accordance with the international agreement of 1899. He conveyed to the citizens who gathered to welcome the delegation greetings from the People's Assembly members to everyone who contributed toward upgrading the living standards and increasing productivity. He promised the citizens that other committees from the assembly will visit the region to respond to the citizens' wishes, identify their problems, and try to find the speedy and practical solutions for them. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister on 'Scheme' To Disrupt Country

NC1002192793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1732 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Ismailia, 10 Feb (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has said that there is a scheme to disrupt Egyptian security and stability and strike at its tourism and economy. Extremist movements in Sudan, Tunis, Iran, and Algeria are participating in the implementation of this scheme in coordination with advocates of violence and terrorism in Egypt.

Interior Minister Musa made these comments in a meeting today with students of the Suez Canal University. He added that some of the defendants arrested in connection with the terrorism case in which a ruling has been passed by the Supreme Ministry Court in Alexandria have admitted to having contacts with [Sudanese Islamic Front leader] al-Turabi in Sudan, [Islamic Salvation Front leader] Abbasi Madani in Algeria, [Ennahda Movement leader Rached] Ghannouchi of Tunisia, extremist leaders in Iran, and 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who is now in the United States. The terrorists said the meetings were held to discuss carrying out terrorist operations in Egypt. The interior minister emphasized that Egypt is being targeted by several quarters that want to stop the march of economic development and undermine security. He noted that the security agencies will firmly and forcefully confront these elements to consolidate the security of the homeland and its citizens.

The meeting, held at the University headquarters, was attended by Ismailia Governor Dr. Ahmad Juwayli, Port Said Governor Major General' Jamil Abu-al-Dhahab, senior Interior Ministry officials, and the faculty and students of the university.

Interior Minister Musa the state is not opposed to religious people, because a religious person preaches for God in public. He said the state will not permit any party founded on religious lines or based on secret organizations to be established. He added that 45 people were arrested a few months ago for founding an antiregime secret organization, adding that security forces are continuing their efforts to arrest the remaining members of this organization. The interior minister explained that the security forces are committed to the rule of law and respect for human rights, noting that many opposition members in neighboring countries have been in jail for over 22 years without any trial and that other regimes have knocked down entire homes on the occupants.

Musa said extremist elements are trying to attain power, adding that 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman thinks he is another Khomeyni and has started to send audio cassettes to his followers in Egypt. He said security forces have managed to seize these cassettes. The interior minister praised the citizens' cooperation with the security forces in arresting the advocates of violence and terrorism and foiling their schemes. He said some Western media agencies and some opposition papers in Egypt exaggerate the incidents taking place in Egypt and portray a false picture of the security situation. He emphasized that Egypt enjoys more security and stability than any other country in the region.

At the beginning of the meeting, the interior minister said we can not pass the current difficult stage unless the universities live up to their pioneering responsibilities as minarets of science, intellect, and opinion. He noted the importance of cohesion among the universities, their faculty, and students.

Private Mosques To Be Placed Under State Control

NC1002145593 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1412 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub has announced that his ministry has drawn up a plan to place 60,000 private mosques under state control by the end of 1995. Officially accredited charitable societies' mosques will be exempted from this decision.

Mahjub also said the government has decided to double the money it pays private mosque preachers for Friday sermons. As of 1 March 1993, they will receive 25 Egyptian pounds per sermon.

Sudan

Pope Arrives in Khartoum 10 Feb

EA1002193093 Khartoum SUNA in French 0910 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Feb (SUNA)—Pope John Paul II of the Vatican arrived in Khartoum on a 24-hour visit to the country at 0845 GMT this morning.

The pope was welcomed at Khartoum airport by President 'Umar al-Bashir and high-ranking officials, as well as by Christian and Muslim religious leaders.

This is the pope's first visit to the country. He will be having official discussions with President al-Bashir, meeting religious leaders, and addressing a mass at Green Square [in Khartoum] in the afternoon.

It should be noted that the pope's visit is attracting the attention of the international media and about 70 foreign journalists, as well as correspondents from international agencies accredited in Khartoum, are covering the visit.

The pope's visit to Sudan is within the framework of his African tour, where he has already visited Uganda and Benin.

Al-Bashir Welcomes Pope

EA1002205093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Excerpts] His Holiness Pope John Paul II of the Vatican arrived in Khartoum this morning with his accompanying delegation. [passage omitted] After a reception ceremony, Lieutenant General 'Umar [al-Bashir] spoke, welcoming the pope to the land of Sudan—the cradle of civilization throughout history. He said the message of peace espoused by the pope had helped to end communism.

He expressed the hope that the pope's efforts in dealing the conflict in Sudan would be crowned with success. Lt. Gen. 'Umar affirmed that a peaceful solution to the southern [Sudan] issue would be found in the near future. He pointed out that the pope's visit would provide him a good opportunity to inspect and see for

himself that Sudan's multireligious and diverse customs lie within the peaceful dialogue.

His Holiness Pope John Paul II spoke and expressed his happiness to be in Sudan. He praised the warm reception and promised that he would pray for the return of peace to southern Sudan. He praised the spirit of co-existence between religions in Sudan. His holiness discussed the problems from which African countries are suffering. He said Africa's problems are all similar and that the solutions to these problems should come from Africans themselves. He pointed out that hope was pinned on Africa's playing a prominent role in world advancement and civilization. He called on all those who care for the interests of the homeland to hold negotiations to establish peace in the South.

A session of joint official talks was held this afternoon at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum. The Sudanese were led by Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir and those from the Vatican by Pope John Paul II.

Tunisia

Turkish Education Minister Signs Agreement

TA1002183393 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1650 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] National Education Minister Koksal Toptan, on an official to Tunisia, held a meeting with Tunisian Education Minister Mohamed Charfi today.

After the meeting the two ministers signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of education. The agreement gives special importance to mutual visits by the youths of the two countries, the teaching of the Turkish language in Tunisia, and cooperation between universities.

Koksal was received by Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui yesterday.

In a declaration after the meeting, Toptan said that Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel will also visit Tunisia during a visit he will pay to North Africa "very soon."

Kuwait

Oil Minister on Production, OPEC Meeting

LD1002155893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 10 Feb (KUNA)—Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli today said that Kuwait's current oil production reached two million barrels per day [mbd], including production from the neutral zone divided between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and that he was optimistic about an improvement in oil prices.

In a statement to newsmen prior to his departure for Frankfurt, where he will visit the German Hoechst AG Company for medicine and petrochemicals industries, Mr. al-Baghli said that there were several options for the meeting of the OPEC ministerial committee in charge of monitoring the market, which is due to be held in Vienna from 13 to 16 February, including the issue of cutting OPEC production in general. [passage omitted]

Mr. al-Baghli expressed his conviction that a 1-1.5 mbd cut in OPEC production would be adequate and would have an effect on the market, and he pointed out that this cut would be on the table as of 1 March. He said that all options on the table would be discussed in detail at the Vienna meeting on 20 February. The oil minister said: We shall emerge from the Vienna meeting with an agreement and we will not deviate from a consensus.

The minister said that Kuwait was in a special situation that differed from the other OPEC countries. He said: We shall coordinate with the Gulf Cooperation Council states that are members of OPEC. I have made many contacts with the minister of petroleum and mineral resources in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Hisham Nazir.

The oil minister pointed out that during his visit to Germany, he would meet senior officials of the German Hoechst AG Company for Pharmaceutical and Petrochemical Industries to discuss aspects of future cooperation with the company. The minister said that he would discuss with senior German officials all aspects of cooperation between the two countries with a view to consolidating relations between them.

In reply to a question, the oil minister said: Predictions indicate a future increase in demand for oil from OPEC. The minister said: We are hoping that OPEC oil prices will reach the targeted price of 21 dollars per barrel. The oil minister said that Kuwait had enormous oil reserves and that the level of its production was in line with the reserves. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Iran Seeks To Resume Negotiations on Islands

NC1102081193 Paris AFP in English 0750 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb 11 (AFP)—Iran has invited the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to resume negotiations in Tehran on a dispute over strategic Gulf islands, Iran's ambassador in the UAE said.

In an interview with AFP late Wednesday [10 February] at a function marking the 14th anniversary of Iran's Islamic revolution, Hasan Aminian said Iran was not worried by UAE plans to take the dispute to the United Nations. "It is their turn now to come to Tehran and resume the negotiations. We have invited them and we hope they will come," he said. "We are optimistic about a solution to this dispute because we are neighbours and our relations have always been strong."

Iran and the UAE held negotiations on the dispute over the islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb in Abu Dhabi last September but they collapsed after Tehran refused to discuss the Tunbs. The dispute dates back to early this century. But it flared anew last year after the Emirates accused Iran of expelling Abu Musa residents and annexing the part it shared with the UAE under a 1971 agreement that was sponsored by Britain just before it ended its colonial presence in the region. The dispute soured ties between them for the first time since the 1979 Islamic revolution overthrew the late Shah. UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan last week called the Iranian presence on the three islands an occupation and vowed to retake them through peaceful means. The three islands are strategically located close to Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf's gateway through which one fifth of the world's oil exports pass. Abu Musa has a population of about 700, mostly Arabs, but the two others are uninhabited except for Iranian military bases.

Aminian said: "We prefer a dialogue between the two countries alone because this is the only solution. We have to solve this problem and reach understanding but are not worried about taking the dispute to the United Nations."

Despite the row, he confirmed Iran's participation in an international defence show in Abu Dhabi next week which will attract more than 350 companies.

Oil Minister Supports Reduced OPEC Output

JN1002212993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1745 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Feb (WAKH)—Yusuf Bin-'Umayr Bin-Yusuf, minister of oil and mineral wealth in the United Arab Emirates, has affirmed that his country will support any effort by OPEC to stabilize oil prices.

In a statement to the Emirates News Agency, the minister affirmed the need to cut OPEC output by at least 1 million barrels per day [BPD] from the output ceiling of 24.582 million BPD set by a November 1992 OPEC agreement. He said: "I hope the reduction will begin next March."

He expressed the belief that such a move will bolster and stabilize oil prices on the global oil market. He explained that consultations on the date for reducing output will be held during an upcoming OPEC meeting.

The minister said that beginning the reduction in early March will specify OPEC output for four months instead of three (the second quarter), and this will give a bigger boost to oil prices.

He affirmed that OPEC is unanimous over the need to cut output. He said this position developed after the recent tour by Alirio Parra, Venezuelan oil minister and chairman of the OPEC Ministerial Conference, of a number of OPEC member states in the Gulf and elsewhere. He said he believes that there is agreement on this matter.

Yemen

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Qatar Visit

PM1102093793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Feb 93 p 5

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Ya'qub al-Zuhayr in Doha; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Zuhayr] What is the purpose of your visit to Qatar, and why was your visit to Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] postponed? It had been reported that you would visit Manama and Abu-Dhabi in the course of your Gulf tour?

[Al-Dali] We are making this visit because we felt that the time has come to renew the contacts and give fresh impetus to our friendly ties with the Arab Gulf states which we in Yemen feel is, without doubt, in our mutual interests. I believe that our brothers in the Gulf share our feelings. Our dialogue with them now focuses on the need to lay a new foundation for our relations. [passage omitted]

Regarding visiting the rest of the Gulf states, that, God willing, will take place in the coming period subject to the circumstances of the officials on both sides. [passage omitted]

[Al-Zuhayr] The Yemeni Presidential Council hailed the results of your visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. May we know something about what has been achieved?

[Al-Dali] Actually, we consider the mere resumption of contacts to be a success in itself. These contacts, coming after a period of estrangement, and the exchange of views which took place on the importance of bolstering fraternal bilateral relations and of letting bygones be bygones and learning the lessons of the past, are all considered by us to be successes. [passage omitted]

[Al-Zuhayr] Is there any truth in the reports that the alliance between the Yemeni Socialist party and the General People's Congress is crumbling?

[Al-Dali] Not at all. On the contrary, the two parties are in the process of making arrangements that will lead to a stronger bond. [passage omitted]

[Al-Zuhayr] Is there a possibility that future circumstances may lead to the postponement of the elections yet again?

[Al-Dali] I do not believe so. We will all—that is the Socialist Party, the People's Congress, and the opposition parties—endeavor to ensure the success of the elections and create the right atmosphere for such success. That is very important to us because they will be the first elections after unity. We want the elections to be held in peaceful circumstances in order to succeed. [passage omitted]

[Al-Zuhayr] There has recently been a wave of assassinations targeting politcal leaders, as well as acts of violence and kidnapping of foreigners. Who, in your view, is behind these incidents?

[Al-Dali] There have been cases of terrorism, of course. Certain leaderships think they can change the course. The terrorist incidents I am talking about basically target the democratic course and seek a return to totalitarian one-party rule, but we believe that all attempts will fail and the national option we have chosen will triumph. [passage omitted]

Government Responsible for Safety of Foreign Companies

JN1002133293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers this morning held a periodic meeting chaired by Brother Dr. Hasan Makki, first deputy prime minister. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers has followed up the reports published by some news media on the Yemeni Government's stand toward the security of some foreign companies and their workers operating in the Republic of Yemen. In this regard, the Council affirms its categorical denial of reports that the Government has relinquished its responsibility toward the security of the oil companies and their workers. The Yemeni Government stresses its responsibility for guaranteeing the security of foreign companies and their workers in Yemen, and emphasizes its concern for the safety and security of all foreign companies' workers. [passage omitted]

Russian Economic Delegation Arrives 10 Feb

JN1002142793 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] A delegation from the Russian Foreign Economic Relations Ministry arrived in Sanaa today on a several-day working visit to Yemen.

The Yemeni News Agency, SABA', has learned that the Russian economic delegation will hold a series of meetings with brother officials from the Ministry of Planning and Development, as well as other concerned parties, to discuss economic and trade cooperation and ways of developing these ties.

The delegation was received by Hashim Sharaf, head of the International Cooperation Department at the Planning and Development Ministry, a number of ministry officials, and the Russian charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Russian Foreign Ministry Official Holds Talks

Meets Foreign Minister

JN1002194493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf this evening received Igor Melekhov, deputy head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern Department.

During their meeting, the officials reviewed bilateral ties and means of reactivating them in the interest of the two countries' peoples. They also addressed in detail the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq and the need to work toward lifting it.

The foreign minister explained to the Russian official all the measures Iraq has taken to honor the commitments enshrined in Security Council Resolution 687.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Third Political Department, the head of the International Organizations and Conferences Department, and the Russian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Received by Tariq 'Aziz

JN1102125293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1203 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, today received Igor Melekhov, deputy head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern Department.

During the meeting, they discussed relations between Iraq and Russia based on the mutual interests of both countries and peoples. They also discussed the position on the UN Security Council resolutions.

Tariq 'Aziz affirmed that Iraq, which has fulfilled all the essential obligations imposed on it by UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 687, wishes to hold a constructive dialogue with the UN Security Council to reach an understanding based on the UN Charter and international law and on respect for Iraq's interests, particularly the lifting of all forms of blockade on on it.

The deputy prime minister called on the UN Security Council, particularly its permanent member states, to deal fairly and objectively with Iraq and to respond to its positive initiatives.

Comments on Ties

NC1102135293 Paris AFP in English 1327 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Feb 11 (AFP)—Iraq must implement all United Nations ceasefire resolutions before Moscow can develop ties with Baghdad, a senior Russian envoy said Thursday after talks with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

"I clearly indicated that Russia wished to see the implementation of all United Nations resolutions," said Igor Melekhov, deputy director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East department.

He also told AFP that he had discussed with 'Aziz "bilateral relations and the possibility of expanding them once the resolutions are implemented."

Melekhov also examined with Iraqi officials "certain ideas leading to a normalization of the situation in Iraq." He did not elaborate.

He is the first senior Russian official to visit Baghdad since the end of the Gulf war in February 1991.

The former Soviet Union had close ties with Iraq but supported a U.S.-led coalition that ousted Iraqi forces from Kuwait, ending a seven-month occupation of the emirate.

The Russian envoy, who spoke in Arabic, said his talks in Iraq had been useful "and the future will uncover their results."

Melekhov arrived in Iraq on Monday [8 February] and was to leave on Saturday. He met Wednesday with Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf as well as other high ranking ministry officials.

He said on arrival that his visit would focus on "telling the Iraqi government of Russia's willingness to develop bilateral relations." [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz Meets British Red Cross Official

JN1002205993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, today received Mike Whitlam, director general of the British Red Cross.

Prisoners' Release Tied to Assets

NC1002203793 Paris AFP in English 1957 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 10 (AFP) - Iraq is refusing to set free two Britons jailed on charges of illegally entering the country until the release of frozen Iraqi assets in Britain, a British Red Cross official said Wednesday.

Mike Whitlam, the head of the British branch of the International Committee of the Red Cross, made the comments hours after telling reporters here there were "very positive signs" for the prospects of an early release for the pair.

"It is bad, bad news," Whitlam said after talks with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

"There is no release for the two men in the foreseable future."

"We talked about the two men and he ('Aziz) is in no way prepared to even talk about a deal," Whitlam added.

Michael Wainwright, 42, was sentenced to 10 years in prison after he entered northern Iraq on a cycling tour last May, while 33-year-old catering worker Paul Ride was sentenced to seven years in prison after his arrest on the Iraq-Kuwait border in August.

'Aziz last month linked the fate of the men to the release of frozen Iraqi assets in Britain, but the Foreign Office rejected any deals.

Whitlam said 'Aziz "understands the humanitarian request we have been making but he says the ball is firmly in the British government's court." "He ('Aziz) was not prepared at this stage to listen to our request that they should be released," Whitlam said.

'Aziz said it was up to the British government to "respond positively" to the request to release the frozen Iraqi assets.

Whitlam is accompanying members of the men's families who visited them in prison on Tuesday and Wednesday. Wainright's mother and sister and Ride's wife and 23-month-old son spent six hours with them inside Abu Gharib prison, 30 kilometers (18 miles) west of Baghdad on Tuesday.

The men were "looking fit and well," Whitlam said after the visit. A second visit took place on Wednesday and Whitlam said a third was planned for Thursday before the families return home. Whitlam has stressed he was acting in a "humanitarian capacity" and not as an intermediary between the British and Iraqi governments.

Peace Organization Chairman Receives French Official

JN1102124093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Feb (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, chairman of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization in Iraq, has stressed that the positive changes in the world public opinion in favor of Iraq have exposed the dimensions and objectives of the big international conspiracy led by the United States against Iraq.

During a meeting with Gilles Monet, secretary general of the French-Iraqi Friendship Society and the accompanying delegation, Jasim said that what Iraq had achieved on the international level, was a natural result of its humanitarian efforts and the generous sacrifices the Iraqis made in defense of their sovereignty, national unity, and the Arab nation's present and future.

Gilles Monet expressed solidarity with the Iraqi people and admiration of the reconstruction campaign in Iraq, stressing that his society will do its utmost to explain the facts to the French people and to lift the blockade imposed on Iraq.

Sudanese Envoy Continues Visit, Meetings

Delivers Message to Saddam

JN1002131693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received a written message from his brother 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al- Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation in fraternal Sudan, dealing with the strong fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries, the scope for promoting these relations, and the current Arab situation.

The message was delivered to his excellency by Dr. 'Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, Sudanese minister of the affairs of the Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers, when the president received him today. The meeting was attended by Hatim al-'Azzawi, head of the president's office, and Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of foreign affairs.

Talks With Trade Minister

JN1002120393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1026 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Feb (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, this morning met with Dr. 'Awad Ahmad, Sudanese minister of the affairs of the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers. During the meeting, which was attended by the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad, they reviewed bilateral economic and trade cooperation and the scope for promoting it in their mutual interest.

Cooperation Reviewed With al-Sa'di

JN1102115893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1029 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Feb (INA)—Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, minister of industry and minerals, today met with Dr. 'Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, Sudanese minister of the affairs of the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers.

During the meeting, they reviewed relations of cooperation in various industrial and production fields and means of promoting them in the interest of the two fraternal peoples. It was also agreed that a technical Iraqi delegation will visit Sudan soon to supervise the establishment of a technical bureau which will provide services to industrial and production installations in fraternal Sudan.

Received by Prime Minister

JN1002155093 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 10, INA—Premier Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi met today Dr. Ahmad, minister for

the cabinet affairs, the personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn from Sudanese President General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir.

During the meeting, Mr. al-Zubaydi said that Iraq's people and leadership highly appreciate firm stances of the people and Government of Sudan who sided with Iraq during the U.S.-led war.

He added that Iraq-Sudan relations are solid and based on desire of both countries' commands to expand them in all fields to serve the Arab nation and its destiny causes.

Mr. al-Zubaydi affirmed that hardships Sudan is facing now were the outcome of its genuine national attitude and its independent political decision.

For his part, the Sudanese envoy said that the recent aggression against Iraq had uncovered falsity of the enemies' claims and their fragile slogans, confirming that the steadfastness of the Iraqi people in face of the aggression and the unjust comprehensive blockade had exploded capabilities of the Iraqis to foil all sinister designs.

Oil Minister on Exports

JN1002202093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti today received Dr. 'Awad Ahmad, Sudanese minister of the affairs of the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers.

During their meeting, the officials reviewed the fraternal bilateral ties and means of enhancing them in the field of oil. The oil minister explained in detail to the guest minister the immense damage inflicted on oil installations and projects during the 30-state aggression. He also informed the guest minister of the accomplishments the Iraqis have scored in the course of the reconstruction drive under exceptional circumstances, drawing on their intrinsic potential and purely Iraqi expertise. He affirmed Iraq's ability to restore its oil export capacity once the unfair embargo imposed on it is lifted.

For his part, Dr. 'Awad Ahmad affirmed that Sudan has benefited from Iraq's experience in exploiting its resources and building a full-blown oil industry.

The meeting was attended by the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

Constitution Amended, President Given Increased Power

JN1002203093 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 1 Feb 93 p 1

[Text] BABIL has learned that the Revolution Command Council [RCC] issued a new decree amending the Republic of Iraq's Constitution to allow for the incorporation of a new paragraph into Article 57, stating that "the president of the Republic may, if the need arises, issue resolutions carrying the force of law."

At the same time, Paragraph (G) of Article 43 has been revoked and superseded by the following: "He can delegate to its [RCC's] chairman or vice chairman some of his other than legislative functions."

Saddam Receives Cable From Cuba's Castro

JN1002120093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1024 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a thank-you cable from Fidel Castro Ruz, president of Cuba's Council of State and Council of Ministers, in reply to the congratulatory cable sent by his excellency on the 34th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution. The cable reads: In the name of the Cuban people and Government, I thank Your Excellency for your congratulatory cable and good wishes on the 34th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution and the new year. We would like to assert our determination to enhance our bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation. My sincerest wishes of prosperity for your people and personal happiness for you. With my best regards.

Official Source Denies Change in Peace Talks Stance

JN1002175093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Commenting on news reports and speculation which have recently addressed Iraq's position on the so-called peace talks, an official source has made the following statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY:

A long time ago, Iraq made clear its position on this process and the likely results it could yield. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has reiterated Iraq's position in this regard in the most recent speech he delivered to mark the anniversary of the 30-state aggression against Iraq. There has been no change in this position.

Regarding Iraq's relations with the Palestinian factions, Iraq would like to reiterate its firm position in support of the PLO and its leadership under president Yasir 'Arafat, given that it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. Moreover, Iraq's fraternal ties with any Palestinian organization or faction are not purposely meant to undermine any other organization or faction.

Fulfillment of Obligations Under UN Resolutions Noted

JN1102115693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0828 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH, organ of the Defense Ministry, has denounced the premeditated attempts to cast doubts on Iraq's fulfillment of its obligations toward the UN Security Council resolutions.

In an article today under the headline "The Yellow Papers of Aggression Are Collapsing One After Another," the paper says: This approach reflects the bankruptcy of these colonialist circles' policy against Iraq and its people. Moreover, it is aimed at affecting the positive atmosphere prevailing in the world regarding the lifting of the unjust blockade, particularly following the initiative of good intentions Iraq has launched toward the new U.S. Administration and its readiness to turn a new leaf based on legitimate mutual interests and on guaranteeing the region's security and stability.

The paper affirms that the confirmed and declared obligations Iraq fulfilled toward the UN Security Council resolutions render this miserable attempt one of the farces of the aggressive alliance and cast doubt on the justifications for continuing the blockade on Iraq and its people after this alliance has run out of any ability to create, invent, or fabricate lies and crises.

The paper adds: Iraq has fulfilled most, if not all, of its obligations toward the unjust UN resolutions which were imposed on it by the Western alliance through the so-called Security Council. This fact can no longer be concealed by any rancorous one or any Zionist circle. Based on this, the world is now required to act seriously to lift the blockade from the Iraqi people, because its continuation is a disgrace to this world, particularly that part of it which claims to be civilized.

Paper Denounces Saudi Rulers' 'Subversive' Actions

JN1102113893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has denounced the Saudi rulers' practices of corrupting politicians, party members, writers, and journalists, and of bribing heads of states and governments so as to influence their political stands.

In an article under the headline "The Saudi Phenomenon...Where To?" the paper says: These practices are as serious and harmful as the treasonous and conspiratorial policies of this humiliated kingdom, which is subservient to the foreigner.

The paper stresses that through these corruptive and subversive actions, the Saudi rulers seek to achieve evil political objectives and to continue their plundering of the resources of the persecuted Arab people of Saudi Arabia.

The paper wonders: Can these corrupt methods and practices succeed in prolonging the life of a reactionary regime that adopts a policy which conflicts with the will of its people and nation? Can the media disinformation, regardless of how strong it is, conceal the true nature of the Saudi regime? Can the three laws which Fahd issued in March 1992—the basic law of government, the Shura Council law, and the regions law—contain the growing popular opposition or silence its voice which has begun to frighten the Al Sa'uds and disturb their sleep?

The paper stresses that the Saudi phenomenon is now exposed, stripped of the cover it has been hiding behind since it brought the forces of aggression and plotting against our people and country.

Concluding its article, the paper says: The Saudi regime, which uses oil revenues as a tool in its foreign and media policy, is now without any future other than collapse after it has mortgaged its fate and future to the foreigner.

Nuclear Documents Allegedly Concealed

PM1102122093 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 8-14 Feb 93 p1

[Unattributed report: "Our Own Sources"]

[Text] According to Iraqi opposition sources, the Iraqi authorities have smuggled a large number of documents pertaining to Iraq's nuclear and chemical programs out to an Arab republic which has good relations with Baghdad to prevent the UN teams from finding and destroying them. The same sources have passed this information to some interested international parties.

Impact of Sanctions on Meat, Poultry Production

JN1002164093 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 10, INA—The U.N. trade sanctions imposed on Iraq have affected the process of producing meat and eggs in Iraq, director of the Iraqi Company for Producing and Marketing Meat Dr. Zuhayr 'Abd-al-Halim 'Abdallah on Tuesday told THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER.

Iraq used to import most of its needs of poultries' fodder. After imposition of the embargo on August 6, 1990, Iraq's markets suffered from an acute shortage in fodder and animal vaccines, a thing that affected the process of producing meat and eggs, Dr. 'Abdallah explained.

Furthermore, poultry farms have been affected as power stations were severely damaged by U.S.-allied bombardment, he added.

Dr. 'Abdallah referred to contracts which were signed by a number of foreign companies to provide Iraq with eggs and fodder. "But those companies didn't implement their obligations toward Iraq, so the production went down and the prices of eggs and meat increased substantially," he said.

Following the "allied" 1991 war against Iraq, saboteurs looted and destroyed Kearbala' poultry farms which usually provide the whole country with layer chickens. The damage inflicted upon these farms is estimated at 25 million Iraqi dinars.

The Iraqi official added that personnel of his company have managed to reconstruct most of the farms of Kearbala' in a six-month time. "The incubator has been

reoperated at its full capacity and is now providing the farms of the country with layer chickens," he said.

As for meat, he said Iraq used to produce large quantities of meat sufficient for the local market needs. But this quantity began to decrease "because a number of neighbouring countries like Saudi Arabia have encouraged goats and sheep's smugglers to smuggle livestock for large sums of money in a bid to destroy Iraq's economy. This phenomenon, anyway, is now under control," he commented.

In an attempt to make up for the lack of meat in the country, the Iraqi Government has concluded contracts with a number of merchants to import meat.

Moreover, a deal has been signed between Iraq and the Sudan to transport meat directly from Khartoum to Baghdad at a rate of two flights weekly. "We hope that an agreement would be reached between the two sides to redouble the number of flights," he added.

The imported meat is being distributed through cooperative societies in prices lower than those of the private sector. "The company is intending to market sufficient quantities of meat and eggs during the coming fasting month of Ramadan," Dr. 'Abdallah concluded.

Clandestine Announces PUK, Socialist Party Merger

NC1002173693 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the Kurdistan Socialist Party today issued a joint statement announcing that they have reunited under the banner of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan following a 14-year separation. The joint statement mentions the struggle of the two parties since 1975, their role in the revolution and within the Kurdistan liberation movement, their efforts to spread revolutionary, socialist, progressive thinking in Kurdistan, and their struggle before and after the uprising. The statement called on all leftist, socialist, and democratic forces to close their ranks and discuss unity.

Opposition Leaders To Meet Mid-February

PM1002163793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Feb 93 p 4

[Kamran Qurrah Daghi report: "Iraqi Opposition to Meet After Talks with Islamists in Tehran"]

[Excerpts] London—'Abd-al-Husayn Sha'ban, deputy chairman of the Executive Council of the opposition Iraqi National Congress, has told AL-HAYAH that the council will hold a full meeting in the middle of the month in Salah- al-Din, some 20 km from Irbil, "to discuss its activities in the recent period and the allocation of the major tasks and to consult with members of the Congress' leadership committee: Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, Mas'ud Barzani, and Major General Hasan al-Naqib, who are all based in Salah-al-Din.

He added that a delegation headed by Council Chairman Ahmad al-Jalabi which left London yesterday, Sunday, for Salah-al-Din will stop over in Tehran to meet with leaders of the Shiite Islamic parties and that "we hope that outstanding matters with them will be resolved." He pointed out that the Executive Council's position "is for containing the disagreements, which we do not believe are fundamental." He expects the delegation to meet with Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, who is the most prominent Shiite opposition leader. [passage omitted]

Sha'ban announced that the Executive Council intends to "implement a plan for foreign moves after the Salah-al-Din meeting. It will include visits to regional and international states, specifically Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Syria, Kuwait, the United States, France, and Britain." [passage omitted]

At another level, Executive Council Deputy Chairman Hani al-Fakiki, commenting on [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader] Jalal Talabani's statement to the Israeli newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT, in which he appealed to world Jewry to help the Kurdish people, said: "Although I have not read the statement made by Brother Talabani, I do not believe that what was published reflects his opinion in full, or the opinion of the Kurdish people, let alone that of the Unified National Congress."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH al-Fakiki added that "the suffering of the Iraqi people, Kurds and Arabs, the existence of diplomatic relations between Israel and some Arab states, Brother Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with the Israeli press and media services, and the peace negotiations should not cause us to forget the Palestinian people's suffering, the occupation of Arab territories, and Israel's racist and aggressive nature." [passage omitted]

Al-Fakiki asserted that "numerous other statements published recently do not reflect the Unified National Congress' opinion, especially with regard to Iraq's sovereignty, rights, and future—which requires that the question of unifying the political position and its rhetoric be placed at the top of the next Irbil meeting's agenda."

Finally, al-Fakiki urged the opposition parties "to avoid whatever confuses and obstructs the opposition forces' unity and struggle for the sake of the democratic alternative."

SAIRI To Attend

NC1002173093 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] A spokesman for the Unified Iraqi National Congress has announced that the leaders of the Iraqi opposition will meet today in Salah-al-Din, adding that Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], will attend the meeting, the purpose of which is to discuss the current conditions in Iraq and efforts to topple the Iraqi regime.

The spokesman said that the United States and the allied countries have not changed their position regarding Kurdistan or Iraq. The spokesman said that assurances on this matter were included in a message UK Prime Minister John Major sent to Kurdistan Democratic Party leader Mas'ud Barzani.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Detained Americans

TA1102103793 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 9 Feb 93

[Communication issued by the Foreign Ministry on 9 February: "Initial Israeli Reaction to US Comments Regarding the Recent Detention of American Citizens"]

[Text] Reacting to comments yesterday by a spokesman of the US State Department, the spokesman of the Israeli Foreign Ministry stated the following:

1. Israel confirms the receipt of formal notes from the US Embassy regarding the recent detention of three US citizens.

2. Israel is giving full and serious consideration to the contents of this communication. Israeli authorities have begun a comprehensive examination of the various aspects of the detention of the three US citizens. The US will be notified of the results of this examination, as soon as it is concluded.

3. In a preliminary review of the events, Israeli authorities have found the following:

—Muhammad 'Umar [name as received] was arrested on 24 January. Muhammad Jarrad and Muhammad Salah were arrested on 25 January.

—US officials were notified by Israeli authorities of the arrest of Jarrad and Salah immediately (within hours of their arrests).

—A US Consul visited the three within a reasonable amount of time—'Umar on 28 January, Jarrad on 29 January, and Salah on 31 January.

—At present, US Consular officials have access to visit the three in coordination with Israeli authorities.

—At present, the three are being detained for questioning.

—The three have been brought before a judge for a review of their detention and the court was satisfied that there were reasonable grounds for extending their detention. On February 2 the detention of Muhammad Salah was extended for 18 days, and the detention of Muhammad Jarrad was extended for 15 days. On February 4, the detention of Muhammad 'Umar was extended for 9 days.

—All three are being allowed access to legal counsel. On 31 January, Muhammad Salah met with his lawyer. A meeting between Muhammad Jarrad and his lawyer is scheduled to take place this week. Muhammad 'Umar is scheduled to meet with his lawyer tomorrow, 10 February.

4. Israeli authorities have stressed that the three are being questioned regarding serious security offenses involving the activities of the HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorist organization.

Ramallah Court Releases One

TA1102112493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The Ramallah military court has released Muhammad Tawfiq al-Hijjah, an American citizen detained in connection with the smuggling of funds from the United States for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the territories, without bail. The judges found that there is no clear-cut evidence justifying keeping him in jail.

Justice Minister Answers Motion on U.S. Human Rights Report

TA1002182993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Report by David Ze'ev]

[Excerpt] Speaking in the Knesset plenum, Justice Minister Liba'i said the Israeli Government rejects outright the use of torture against any individual and rejects outright the use of interrogation methods that are violent, brutal, or in any way inhumane. The justice minister said the government insists that every investigation be carried out in a legal manner, including when the suspects are charged with acts of terrorism and bloodshed.

Minister Liba'i was actually responding to a Knesset motion on a human rights report issued last month by the U.S. State Department for 1992. But now, the Americans have issued new protests concerning the three American citizens arrested here late last month for alleged involvement with the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] movement. [passage omitted]

Peres Leaves for U.S., Comments on Resumption of Talks

TA1102055793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres left last night for the United States. Before his departure, reporter Jack Katzenell asked the foreign minister what he would be discussing with officials in Washington.

[Begin recording] [Peres] Well, I am going to meet some of the officials of the new administration. I think it will enable us to go through a very long list of issues and problems and prospects for the future. I shall also meet the secretary general of the United Nations and the president of the Security Council. I shall deliver a speech to the assembly of Jewish congregations in the United States, and I shall meet with Jewish leaders.

[Katzenell] Do you think there is a good prospect of persuading the Palestinians to return to the bilateral talks?

[Peres] I think there is no reason why they should not.

[Katzenell] They said: if the United Nations will adopt the agreement which has been reached. Do you think the United Nations will now adopt this?

[Peres] I would not like to go into any speculations. I think it is premature. [end recording]

The foreign minister's last engagement before leaving for Washington was a meeting with three visiting senators—Specter, Jeffords, and Brown—all Republicans. They flew in after visiting Syria and Jordan. They told Foreign Minister Peres they got the impression that the Syrians are willing to make progress toward a peace agreement and do not link the resumption of the bilateral talks with the return of the expelled Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. [passage omitted]

On the expelled Hamas activists, Foreign Minister Peres told the senators Israel cannot allow an armed minority to impose its will on the Palestinian majority, who wish to achieve a negotiated settlement with Israel.

Peace Talks Reportedly Set for 18 Apr; Gaps Remain

TA1102061193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The next round of peace talks will most likely begin in mid-April. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the United States will send invitations to the sides participating in the talks for 18 April.

Following the talks in Washington by the heads of the Israeli negotiating delegation with the Jordanians and Palestinians, it transpires that the gaps between Israel and the Palestinians remain intact.

Rubinstein Back From U.S.

TA1102114693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein says the Palestinian negotiators could bring back real achievements from the peace talks if only they would take up some of Israel's offers in the bilateral negotiations. Rubinstein returned yesterday from Washington, where he and other senior Israeli negotiators had talks with the new U.S. Administration on the resumption of the negotiations. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Elyaqim Rubinstein says he and his team conducted a complete review of Israel's positions for the officials of the new Clinton administration. The review covered the powers of the autonomy, human rights, land, and so on. Rubinstein says a concerted Israeli-American-Russian effort is taking place to get the bilateral talks started again. Even though the Palestinians have not yet agreed to the talks, Rubinstein says everyone knows the only way to make peace is to negotiate and, therefore, detailed preparations have to be made.

Rubinstein says if only the Palestinians would take up some of the offers Israel is putting forward, they could bring back real achievements and strengthen their position in Palestinian public opinion.

[Rubinstein] One of the flaws of the public perception of these negotiations has been the gloomy face put up by our Palestinian colleagues to their own population after every round. So if nothing is achieved, why continue the negotiations? But that's not the case. Much has been achieved because a lot of ground has been covered and much more is to be achieved—a change, a real change. So, for instance, we mentioned in the past the possibilities of transferring some of the functions of the Civil Administration to Palestinians, even on a fast track negotiating cycle without too long deliberations, to make sure that people will hear something tangible is moving. There was no real response on this kind of an idea.

[Katzenell] Elyaqim Rubinstein says it is a pity that the Palestinians are not prepared to engage in informal consultations here, in Jerusalem. That will be the best way to keep the process moving between rounds of talks, the cabinet secretary says. [end recording]

Knesset Official Announces Talks With Mubarak, PLO

NC1102065593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—Israeli Knesset Deputy Speaker Salih Tarif has announced that there is a plan to hold meetings between Israeli parliamentarians, President Husni Mubarak, and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat to exchange views on the peace process.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-AHRAM published today, Tarif said that meetings between Israeli parliamentarians and the PLO are important and will bring their views closer.

On the Palestinian deportees problem, Tarif said it is a difficult problem and a dilemma.

The Knesset deputy speaker added that this issue must be solved because it affects the general climate of the peace negotiations. Noting that the negotiations are vital, he stressed that it is necessary not to obstruct the peace process and show the utmost degree of flexibility to revive it.

Sources Reject al-Hariri's Remarks

TA1002201193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Lebanon is ready to accept the Israeli-U.S. compromise accord concerning the deportees, and is no longer insisting that the deportees be returned unconditionally. Our correspondent Gil Sadan has learned this from knowledgeable sources in Israel.

On the eve of the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the region, Lebanon is trying to convince the Americans of its flexibility. Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri said in an interview with the Egyptian news agency today that his country is ready to make peace with Israel provided Israel withdraws its troops from south Lebanon. Al-Hariri's declaration was made against the backdrop of his meeting with President al-Asad in Damascus today and his planned visit to Cairo tomorrow.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that in the interview, the Lebanese prime minister said that for Lebanon, its consent to an arrangement with Israel is not conditional on a comprehensive regional arrangement and on the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, regarding withdrawal from occupied territories.

In reply to a question from our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, knowledgeable sources in Israel said they did not think the remarks reflect an actual turnabout in the Lebanese position. In their view, this is another attempt to bring about a unilateral Israeli withdrawal to the international border without achieving a comprehensive peace agreement that will solve Israel's security problems.

Beilin—Talks With Jordan at 'Very Advanced Stage'

TA1002163093 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Feb 93 p 2

[ITIM report]

[Text] "The peace talks with the Jordanians are at a very advanced stage," Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin stated yesterday.

In a symposium held by the Information Center in Tel Aviv, Beilin said that "a breakthrough in the talks with the Syrians would lead to an agreement with the Lebanese. They, too, have a serious problem with Hizballah, which operates from their territory."

Referring to the Syrians, Beilin said that "Syria asks us one key question: What sort of withdrawal do you have in mind when you talk about a compromise on the Golan Heights? On the other hand, we ask the Syrians what sort of peace they have in mind and whether it will be a stable peace. Another problem is whether the Syrians will go for a separate agreement or will remain loyal to all the [Arab] sides and demand a comprehensive agreement."

According to the deputy foreign minister, the Palestinian issue is the core of the problem, and a peace agreement without them would not be a full peace agreement. "Nevertheless, I do not rule out such a possibility. The question is when they will take the risk and hold the elections and whether a problem is not created if Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] scores a landslide."

Beilin emphasized the importance of the Americans' involvement in the process, seeing that they are the only ones who can bridge the gaps between the sides and bring about a breakthrough.

Jordan Said To Protest Rabin's Favoring Talks With Syria

TA1102111693 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Jordan has complained to the new U.S. Administration that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks, giving priority to the negotiations with Syria, provide Syria with the "authority" to dictate the pace and nature of developments in the negotiations with the rest of the partners to the peace talks.

In discussions an Israeli diplomat has held with State Department officials, it emerged that despite the progress made in the negotiations with Jordan, Amman authorities are not ready to make a significant breakthrough as long as no parallel progress has been made with the Palestinians.

The Jordanians said that Rabin's declarations favoring the negotiations with Syria created difficulties for them and for the Palestinians and enabled the Syrians to claim that the rest of the Arab countries must work in coordination with them and avoid making independent progress with Israel.

Judging from the discussions, it also appears that the United States has pressured Jordan to avoid extreme declarations regarding the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees and to act for a rapid conclusion of the joint agenda with Israel, the details of which have been agreed on in the political negotiations in Washington.

In the discussions it was also indicated that the Americans believe that King Husayn's state of health is such that it will allow him to remain Jordan's head of state for at least the next five years. According to the report received in Jerusalem, this belief does not correspond with recent assessments, according to which the king's state of health is far worse than the Americans believe it to be.

'Terrorist' Killed, Another Wounded in Gaza; 12 Detained

TA1002161793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] A knife-wielding terrorist was shot and killed and another terrorist was critically injured by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops near Dayr al-Balah in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the terrorists' identities are being checked.

Four Israeli cars were damaged and 12 suspects were detained in riots in East Jerusalem. No one was hurt. Our police correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that an Arab youth, who tried to snatch a border policeman's weapon, was captured and detained. Quiet now prevails in East Jerusalem.

Second Dies of Wounds

TA1002185193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Violence continues in the Gaza Strip as the hunt goes on for the killers of Yehezqel Avraham. There were a number of clashes between the Army and Palestinians today. In one, soldiers shot and killed two armed masked men. Alan Ben-'Ami reports:

The most serious clash in the Gaza Strip today happened at about 1500 this afternoon in Zuwaydah, north of Dayr al-Balah. According to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman, security forces searching for wanted men ran into a group of masked men who were wearing uniforms and were armed with knives and axes. Members of the gang made threatening gestures with their knives at the commander of the Israeli force, and soldiers near him opened fire, killing one of the masked men on the spot and wounding another. The soldiers said they also heard a shot fired from among the Palestinians near them, but could not determine who may have shot at them. The IDF spokesman's office did not say what happened to the rest of the gang, although presumably they fled from the scene.

The masked man who was wounded was transferred to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, but died from his wounds later.

Earlier in the day, there were clashes between Palestinians and soldiers manning posts in the Jabalyah refugee camp. According to the Palestinians, the soldiers shot and wounded six people, including an 11-year-old boy, when stones were thrown at them. The Army said it is checking the report, but can confirm that four people were treated at al-Shifa' Hospital for light injuries. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1830 GMT on 10 February reports that "a 20-year-old Arab sustained critical injuries and another, approximately 16, sustained light injuries when IDF soldiers fired during a stoning incident in the Ramallah District village of Silwad." The report adds that "the older wounded man fled the site and later arrived in critical condition at the Ramallah hospital."]

A group of settlers today planted about 40 saplings near the settlement of Shilo east of Ramallah. The settlers, some of whom wore masks over their faces, said they had purposely chosen land worked on by Arabs to protest Minister Hayim Ramon's threat in the Knesset that the Army would uproot every tree planted in the territories.

Home Front Prepares Instructions for Nuclear Leaks

TA1002125293 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 Feb 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Yo'av Kaspi]

[Excerpts] The Home Front Command is preparing for the a malfunction or leak in a nuclear reactor. In instructions to be disseminated to the public only in the event of a malfunction, it is stated that, due to a malfunction in the reactor, dangerous materials could spread in the area and that the security forces are handling the situation. [passage omitted]

Over the last few days the media has carried reports concerning safety hazards in the Dimona nuclear reactor. Last Friday HADASHOT published a call by an official of the former U.S. Administration to shut down the Dimona nuclear reactor. The official claims that the Dimona reactor is old and dangerous.

The spokesman of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission, which is in charge of the Dimona reactor, said this reactor is in good working order and that there is no reason to shut it down. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman says that the IDF instructions constitute information material prepared by the Home Front Command in the framework of the defense establishment's routine preparations for various emergencies.

Finance Ministry Urged To Prepare for Removal of U.S. Aid

TA1002122093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Feb 93 p B1

[Editorial: "With A View to Foregoing Aid"]

[Text] Despite the big deficit in the U.S. budget and the foreign aid reforms planned by the United States, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat estimated that U.S. aid to Israel will not be cut. Democratic Senator Patrick Leahy, too, told the media that his visit was not at all intended to discuss the question of foreign aid, but the ways in which Israel makes use of the guarantees it recently received from the U.S. Administration.

Leahy, who emphasized the U.S. commitment to Israel's security, added that he was impressed by the immigrant absorption policy of the Israeli Government, "which is actually doing something that no other country would do: opening its doors to everybody, without limiting immigration only to young, healthy, and skilled people." This statement is based on the assumption that to absorb 500,000 immigrants Israel needs to invest vast sums of money.

Speaking on the same issue, Yitzhaq Rabin said something like: "Economically, we are still a country in distress, a country of panhandlers, and only the United States can help us when we are in trouble. From the United States we get real help and not just sympathy." In other words, there are positive expectations that the aid will continue. This optimism may be exaggerated seeing that the beliefs of Patrick Leahy, who is also chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Senate's Appropriations Committee, might weigh Israel down.

Leahy believes that the end of the Cold War necessitates a shift in U.S. orientation from defense to humanitarian

considerations. Consequently, it should stop extending military aid to countries which stood up to communism and instead help countries fighting poverty, hunger, and AIDS. Notwithstanding all the soothing declarations, such an approach should worry Israel's economic leaders.

Israel currently gets an annual $3-billion grant, which is occasionally increased. For example, in 1991 Israel received another $650 million as compensation for the damages sustained in the Gulf war. Hence, when it comes to aid, Israel is the largest U.S. customer.

Some Israelis believe the aid arises from U.S. interests and is meant to help Israel maintain a strong army and be a sort of land-based aircraft carrier for U.S. interests in the Middle East. The problem with this thesis is that not all Americans think likewise.

Some think that the strength of the Jewish vote in the United States will deter any U.S. Administration from cutting aid to Israel, but even that is not certain (see the statements referring to the Jews made by former U.S. President George Bush during the last election campaign).

Some believe that Israel gets the aid because it is an ally of the United States and shares with it the same values and spirit, unlike many other regimes in the Middle East. However, it is precisely on this point that our position in U.S. public opinion has been eroded.

Therefore, despite the optimistic atmosphere, the Finance Ministry should deal seriously with the possibility of a cut in aid. Contingency plans should be drafted now to prepare the Israeli economy for a termination of the aid and for a situation in which Israeli imports are on a par with its exports so that we do not require any external aid.

We think this should be a 10-year plan, so that by 2003 we will no longer need U.S. help. Then, we will be able to give it up of our own free will, rather than under duress.

Cabinet Approves Absorption of 100 Bosnian Muslims

TA1002200693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Israel has agreed to take in 100 Muslim refugees from battle areas in Bosnia. Barring unexpected delays, they will arrive in Israel next week. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that this decision was made by the government in response to an appeal from the Committee of Arab Local Councils.

This morning the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs endorsed the Muslim refugees' arrival and the initial arrangements for their absorption. As suggested by the Committee of Arab Local Councils, they will be absorbed in Umm-al-Fahm and al-Tira.

Gad Ben-Ari, the prime minister's media adviser, said that a special French Government plane will bring the refugees with the assistance of Jewish organizations, and the Construction and Housing Ministry will allocate them mobile homes.

Immigration in 1992 Drops 56 Percent From 1991

TA0902135093 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] Approximately 77,000 immigrants came to Israel in 1992, 65,000 of which arrived from the former Soviet Union. From the start of the immigration wave from the Soviet Union in 1989 and until the end of 1992, approximately 470,000 olim arrived in Israel, 410,000 from the former Soviet Union.

The Central Bureau of Statistics which published this data yesterday, pointed out that compared to 1991 there was a 56-percent drop in the number of immigrants in 1992. In 1992, 3,900 olim came to Israel from other European countries, as opposed to 4,300 in 1991. Approximately 3,000 immigrants arrived from the American continent both in 1991 and 1992. Approximately 900 arrived from Asia as compared to 600 in 1991, and 4,100 came from Africa as opposed to 20,300 (mostly Ethiopian Jews in Operation Solomon) in 1991.

In 1992, 3,600 immigrants came from Ethiopia, 1,800 from the United States, 1,200 from France, 600 from Yugoslavia, 500 from England and Romania, and 400 from Argentina. Among the immigrants who worked overseas, 32 percent have a scientific and academic background (as opposed to 35 percent in 1991), 32 percent are white- collar professionals, and 22 percent described themselves as professional workers or blue-worker workers in the fields of industry, transportation or construction. The rest described themselves as office workers, salesmen, service sector employees, or agricultural workers.

Approximately 6,800 of the immigrants were engineers and 1,400 were doctors or dentists. The median age of all immigrants in 1992 was 32.3, and 34.2 for olim from the former Soviet Union. Those younger than 20 made up 29 percent of all immigrants, and 27 percent of those from the Soviet Union. The percentage of immigrants over 65 reached 14 percent of immigrants.

Prime Minister al-Hariri Returns From Damascus

NC1102072593 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned from Damascus at 2230 last night.

During the visit, al-Hariri held a four-hour meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi attended the meeting. The prime minister also met with a number of Syrian officials, including Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi. The talks dealt with current developments on the regional and international levels, particularly the Arab-Israeli negotiations and the deportees issue in light of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming tour of the Middle East.

In a statement to AL-NAHAR newspaper upon his return last night, Prime Minister al-Hariri said: We in Lebanon and the region will face a new situation and we must hold consultations to determine how to deal with this situation.

Al-Hariri described the outcome of his talks in Damascus as excellent, noting that the talks are a part of the political visits he intends to make to a number of Arab countries, including Egypt. Al-Hariri said that the talks in Damascus stressed the need for a complete solution to the deportees issue as a condition for participation in the next rounds of peace talks.

Al-Hariri Says No Conflict With 'Abd-al-Majid

NC1102131193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri travels to Cairo today after Damascus. His last meeting in Beirut was with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, which was preceded by a series of meetings at Government House.

The following is the last statement by the prime minister before he left for Cairo on his private plane. Over to you Bassam Barraq.

[Begin Barraq recording] Before leaving Beirut for Cairo, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri said Lebanon rejects any partial settlement of the deportees issue. He said his visits to Cairo and Damascus aim to reach a unified Arab stance on this issue.

On another issue, al-Hariri denied any conflict with Arab League Secratary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. He said Lebanon welcomes 'Abd-al-Majid any time. He considered 'Abd-al-Majid's visit to the deportees camp in Marj al-Zuhur to be linked with certain circumstances. [end recording]

Al-Rantisi Places Conditions on Phased Return

NC1002205693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, the Palestinian deportees' spokesman, has said the deportees will not consider returning home in stages unless Israel voices its rejection of the expulsion process and international guarantees that Israel will not expel any more Palestinians are put in place. He added that the Security Council must meet soon to force Israel to implement Resolution 799. He said the deportees will not change their position even if the Arabs go back to the negotiations.

Palestinians Observe Strike in Support of Deportees

NC1102130193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] On the information day in solidarity with the Palestinian deportees, Palestinian forces observed an all-out strike in al-Barid and al-Baddawi camps today. Key northern figures and parties agreed to stage a procession on the occasion tomorrow.

Internal security forces have intensified their guard on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] center in Tripoli as a precaution against any complications. The northern follow-up committee called for pursuing a different course toward the biased U.S. position toward Israel.

The information bureau of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah in Tripoli issued a statement in which it reiterated its solidarity with the Palestinian deportees. The statement said the deportation is an attempt to strike at the intifadah and to consolidate occupation. The statement strongly criticized the Palestinian negotiating team, noting that the Palestinian people's decision rests in the intifadah heroes, the Islamic Resistance [Movement], Hamas, and those resisting the Zionist enemy.

Hizballah Leader, Velayati Discuss Developments

NC1102084193 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] New developments in the Lebanese arena, specifically repeated Zionist attacks on Lebanon, and the Palestinian deportee situation, were the topic of discussion yesterday in Damascus between Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah, who visited the Syrian capital heading a delegation from the party. During the meeting, Dr. Velayati affirmed the Islamic Republic's support for Lebanon to realize its national unity and for the jihad of the Muslim people in Palestine.

Tripartite Foreign Ministers Meeting Discusses Iraq, Ties

Turkey's Cetin Comments

TA1002161493 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1505 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Damascus (AA)—Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin has said that Turkey, Iran, and Syria believe that Iraq's current attitude does not contribute to regional stability or to the speedy restoration of peace.

Cetin was speaking to Turkish reporters following the first session of the tripartite meeting held on the issue of Iraq in Damascus this morning. He pointed out that the benefits of the meeting held in Ankara in November thanks to Turkey's initiative were confirmed once again during the meeting held today.

Cetin pointed out that instability and confusion continue to reign in Iraq. He said that at the meeting, the three countries agreed that in the interest of Iraq's unity and integrity, humanitarian aid should be extended to the entire Iraqi people, and not only to certain groups.

Cetin listed the items on which agreement was reached at the meeting as follows:

—The Iraqi Administration must obey all the UN Security Council resolutions without any pretexts. Easing the embargo against Iraq will also make a contribution.

—Lifting the embargo Iraq has imposed on its own people, especially in northern Iraq, is important for Iraq's integration into the world.

—It will be beneficial for the Iraqi Administration to stop the actions it perpetrated during the last days of the Bush administration. This will contribute to Iraq's integration into the world and to the elimination of the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Cetin pointed out that since instability and confusion continue to reign in the region, the three countries decided that it would be beneficial to continue their meetings in the coming months. The next meeting will be held in Iran in June, Cetin said.

The foreign minister revealed that the three agreed to expand the meetings in the future by admitting other countries within the framework of certain principles.

Replying to a question on the Iraqi opposition groups, Cetin said that Turkey does not show great interest in these groups in order not to give the impression that it is "interfering in Iraq's internal affairs."

Cetin stressed that the meeting is not against Iraq or a certain group. Asked what the most important message of the meeting is, the foreign minister replied: "The message is that Iraq's current stand does not contribute to regional stability or to the speedy establishment of peace."

The foreign minister stated that he will meet Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Damascus before he leaves for Turkey this evening, and that he wants to discuss with Velayati once again the issue of the terrorist incidents in Turkey. He said that at the meeting, he will propose that the terrorist incidents which have links with Iran be studied at the level of under secretaries, a high-level body of the security committee set up by the interior ministries of the two countries.

Cetin said he believes that Iran is studying the information conveyed by Turkey regarding this matter. He added: "The issues I discussed with Mr. Velayati were given to the Iranian ambassador in Ankara in written form. It is impossible for these issues not to be studied. When the investigation in Turkey reaches an advanced stage, the stage of the courts, everything will come out in the open. I believe that it would be useful for Iran to contribute and to cooperate regarding this issue, because I still believe that Iran will not benefit as a state from such activities in Turkey. Still, it would be beneficial to analyze the data in depth, to contribute to the investigation."

Cetin said that at his meeting with the Syrian foreign minister they might discuss the issue of security. Cetin added: "In fact, I would like to point out that there are no activities in Syria that disturb Turkey."

Cetin then attended a luncheon together with Velayati given in their honor by Syria's Faruq al-Shar'.

At the end of the tripartite meeting this evening, Cetin will leave Damascus for Turkey.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that Velayati and Al-Shar' invited Cetin to a reception being held in Damascus this evening on the occasion of Iran's national day, but that Cetin could not accept the invitation because of the Council of Ministers meeting to be held this evening and his visit to Romania tomorrow.

Statement Issued

JN1002192693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Damascus, 10 Feb (SANA)—The tripartite meeting of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin concluded here today in the presence of members of the three countries' delegations.

After the meeting, the three foreign ministers held a joint news conference attended by correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies, reporters from world television networks, as well as journalists and media representatives accompanying Mr. Velayati and Mr. Cetin.

At the beginning of the conference, Faruq al-Shar' read out the joint statement issued at the end of the meeting. Following is the text of that statement:

The foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Turkey, and the Syrian Arab Republic met in Damascus on 10 February 1993 to follow up their 14 November 1992 meeting in Ankara, which was permeated by a cordial and constructive spirit and achieved positive results.

The ministers reviewed developments in the region since their last meeting and stressed the importance of stability in the region.

The ministers emphasized their great concern for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Iraq. They believe that the future of Iraq should be defined by the free will of the Iraqi people based on the principles of unity, democracy, and good-neighborly relations.

The ministers once again urged the government in Baghdad to comply with UN Security Council resolutions and international law. They believe that the Iraqi people should not submit to continuous punishment on account of the Baghdad regime.

The ministers will closely follow developments in the region and will continue their consultations when necessary, emphasizing that these consultations are not aimed against any particular group or country. Indeed, the objective of these consultations is to protect regional security and stability based on principles stipulated in the UN Charter, such as territorial integrity, noninterference in domestic affairs, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

The ministers expressed their dissatisfaction with selectivity in implementing UN Security Council resolutions, such as those resolutions dealing with the Palestinian deportees and Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The ministers emphasized their determination to continue their joint struggle in the face of terrorism against their countries. They decided to form a committee to follow developments, coordinate stands, and prepare for future ministerial conferences and meetings.

The ministers decided to hold their next ministerial meeting in Iran in June 1993.

Following this, the three ministers answered questions posed to them by journalists.

Further on Statement

LD1002223793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The trilateral session of foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey, and Syria concluded its work Wednesday [10 February] evening with a statement. After the conclusion of the session, Foreign Minister Velayati took part in a news conference. Our correspondent Bamdad has sent us a report on the final statement of the session of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey, and Syria and Mr Velayati's interview:

[Bamdad] The foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Syria, and Turkey, who held a session in Damascus to discuss problems of Iraq, ended their work Wednesday night with a statement. In their final statement, the three countries' foreign ministers point out the need to safeguard Iraq's unity and territorial integrity and stress the right of the people of Iraq to determine their own destiny on the basis of their sovereignty and friendly relations with that country's neighbors.

In the statement, the three countries' foreign ministers stress the need for the continuation of exchanges of views and reiterate that their discussions are not against any group or country, but seek to strengthen regional security and stability according to the UN Charter and are based on territorial integrity, nonintervention in other countries' affairs, and the peaceful solution of problems.

In their statement, the participants express their dissatisfaction at the double standards shown when dealing with the UN resolutions, particularly in the case of the deported Palestinians and of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The foreign ministers of the three countries also announced that the next joint trilateral session will be held in Tehran next Khordad [Iranian month beginning 21 May].

At the conclusion of their meeting, the foreign ministers of Iran, Syria, and Turkey took part in a news conference. Asked about relations between Iran and Turkey, our country's foreign minister, Mr. Velayati, emphasized the two countries' decision to expand ties and said that recent events were caused by those who are against Iran-Turkey relations in an attempt to damage the expanding and satisfactory trend of ties between the two countries.

He said: A special committee comprising the interior ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey will review the recent problems and make the appropriate decisions.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin also confirmed the remarks made by our country's foreign minister and stressed the need to expand relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' referred to the problem of the expelled Palestinians and called for the unconditional implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799. He added: Showing double standards when dealing with UN resolutions will create problems in the way of the Middle East peace talks which are based on the UN resolutions.

Cetin Departs

JN1002195793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin left Damascus this evening after taking part in the tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Syria, Iran, and Turkey.

Foreign Minister Cetin was seen off at Damascus international airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the Foreign Ministry's chief of protocol, the head of the Europe desk at the Foreign Ministry, Syria's ambassador to Turkey, and the Turkish ambassador in Damascus accompanied by embassy staff.

Al-Shar' Comments

JN1002220793 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The meeting of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Iran's 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and Turkey's Hikmet Cetin concluded in Damascus today in the presence of delegates from the three countries.

After the meeting, the ministers held a joint news conference for Arab and foreign correspondents, reporters from world television networks, and media representatives accompanying Mr. Velayati and Mr. Cetin. [passage omitted]

Asked whether there were in place procedural measures on the political and practical levels to safeguard the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Iraq, Foreign Minister al-Shar' said: Our meeting was convened to make a point about the stands of the three countries, a highly significant gesture; it is also a message to those who may want to diminish Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Asked about whether there were assurances from Iraqi opposition groups not to partition Iraq, al-Shar' said: I would like to emphasize that most of the Iraqi opposition groups with which we are in touch stress that they are not willing to partition or carve up Iraq.

Regarding pertinent UN resolutions, al-Shar' stressed the need for their implementation. He indicated that this meeting sends a message from the three countries that they are gravely concerned about the conditions that have a bearing on their security and that of the region as a whole. As neighbors of Iraq, which has witnessed serious developments over the past two years, he said the three countries would like to make it clear that they are more concerned than countries more distant from the region. They also want to state their views as to what is best for the peace and stability of the region, including Iraq.

Asked about the Palestinian expellees and whether peace talks may be relaunched in the absence of a resolution to their issue, al-Shar' said: Syria's position is known and clear; we condemn the practice of expulsion to which Israel resorts every now and then; we want and demand the enforcement of UN Security Council Resolution 799 calling for their repatriation. Without a doubt, the resolution of this issue and the expellees return to their homes will make the resumption of peace talks much more likely. It is natural, al-Shar continued, that the world body and the Security Council in particular have a special responsibility toward making Israel honor the resolution on the expellees, as well as other resolutions. At our meeting today, we voiced our disquiet over the application of double standards toward Security Council resolutions, al-Shar' said. [passage omitted]

Khaddam Receives Velayati

JN1002215293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati at 2130 today. The meeting was attended by the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

Discussions during the meeting dealt with the results of the meetings of the foreign ministers of Syria, Iran, and Turkey, as well as the regional situation, the latest developments in the region, and the situation of the Palestinian expellees.

Velayati Meets al-Asad, Departs

JN1102131393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and the delegation accompanying him at 1015 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Iranian ambassador to Damascus attended the meeting.

Dr. Velayati and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus this afternoon after participating in the tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Syria, Iran, and Turkey. Dr. Velayati was seen off at Damascus international airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the protocol director, the Foreign Ministry's ranking staff, and the Iranian ambassador in Damacus and embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA correspondent, Dr. Velayti said: We were honored today to meet with his Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. I conveyed to his excellency a message from Iranian President Haashemi-Rafsanjani. We also submitted a report and a comprehensive briefing on the tripartite meeting in which we, Syria, and Turkey have participated. Dr. Velayati described his visit to Damascus and the tripartite talks held by Syria, Iran, and Turkey as good and positive, adding that these talks seek to safeguard the region's security and establish an atmopshere for cooperation in this very sensitive area of the world. He added: We noticed that during these talks there has been a great improvement in this field when compared with the two previous meetings in Istanbul and Ankara.

Dr. Velayati affirmed that the relations between Syria and Iran are cordial and fraternal ones. He expressed satisfaction with the noticeable development in the two countries' relations on all levels and in all aspects. He said that these meetings are an opportunity to exchange viewpoints on the latest developments in the region, and to carry out the necessary coordination on the bilateral, regional, and international level.

Lebanese Prime Minister Meets With Officials

Received by Khaddam

JN1002154693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1510 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Damascus, 10 Feb (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri this morning.

Discussions during the meeting dealt with the situation in the region and the Palestinian deportee issue.

Meeting With al-Asad

JN1002163693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Damascus, 10 Feb (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at 1215 today.

The meeting was later joined by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

Discussions during the meeting dealt with the regional situation, the peace process, and the Palestinian deportee issue.

The meeting was interrupted by a working lunch hosted by the president.

Al-Hariri Comments on Talks

NC1002191093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri met with President Hafiz al-Asad this afternoon in Damascus. Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al- Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi joined the meeting later. The discussion continued over a luncheon. Al-Hariri will continue his talks with Syrian officials and return to Beirut tonight.

Al-Hariri said that his talks with Syrian officials dealt with issues of common concern to the two brotherly countries. He added that efforts are under way to resolve completely the issue of Palestinian deportees and pave the way for the resumption of the peace talks. He pointed out that Lebanon's participation in the peace talks is based on UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

Al-Hariri said that Lebanon is eager to coordinate its policies with Arab countries concerned with the peace process, particularly Syria. Only a just and comprehensive solution of the Middle East conflict will bring lasting peace and stability to the region, he said.

The prime minister praised bilateral cooperation and said he and Prime Minister al-Zu'bi discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in a manner that serves the interests of both countries and nations.

The Lebanese prime minister said efforts to reconstruct Lebanon are continuing. Syria, he added, supports these efforts. Since I took office in Lebanon, al-Hariri said, I have sensed Syria's eagerness to help Lebanon restore its vigor and sovereignty over all its land and defend its independence.

Al-Hariri Departs

JN1102080893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left Damascus last night following a short visit to Syria.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah, and Information Minister Muhammad Salman.

Al-Asad Tells Mubarak of Iranian Stance on Ties

JN1002181793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad informed his Egyptian counterpart, Husni Mubarak, during their talks yesterday in Damascus that Iran is prepared to improve ties with Egypt. He said the Iranian leadership does not regard the Egyptian terms conveyed to it by Syria as conditions but as a natural concept on the basis of which ties between the two countries can be established.

Cairo had earlier conveyed to Damascus a number of conditions to accept Syrian mediation aimed at improving ties with Tehran. The conditions are: No interference in internal affairs, Iran must refrain from providing safe haven or support to terrorists carrying out acts of sabotage in Egypt, the effects of Sudanese-Iranian relations should be confined to the two countries exclusively and not extend to Egypt, and Iran should stop personal and nonpersonal criticism of the Egyptian Government and leadership.

During yesterday's talks, al-Asad affirmed his country's readiness to host the first round of talks between the two sides in Damascus, stressing that during these preliminary talks agreement should be reached on measures to improve ties between the two countries. Al-Asad noted that the Iranian leadership agreed to discuss the issue of

Iranian-Gulf relations during the talks when discussions on bilateral relations have been completed.

Media Comment on Intensive Diplomatic Activity

Coordination for Christopher Tour

JN1002175793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Damascus has turned into a center of high-level Arab political meetings and contacts, and intense activity aimed at coordinating Arab stands to confront developments in the peace process and the deportee issue, as well as to exchange viewpoints prior to the visit by the U.S. secretary of state and the proposals he may bring with him.

A series of important meetings have been held over the past few days. Yesterday, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak visited Syria and held talks with President Hafiz al-Asad. According to the president, issues under discussion were dealt with in extensive detail. Prior to this visit, there was the visit by Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, which was preceded by the Kuwaiti foreign minister's visit. Lebanese Foreign Minister Rafiq al-Hariri came today to discuss and coordinate the very same Arab issues, as well as to discuss bilateral relations.

Just as this concentration of political and diplomatic activity in Damascus reflects the importance of the Syrian role, all these contacts, on various levels, with Arab officials express a serious and intensified Arab effort to crystallize a clear joint vision to deal with the aforementioned regional developments.

This understanding and activity to crystallize joint stands is not just a pan-Arab demand, but is dictated by the facts of the current situation. This is especially so since Israel, the other party concerned with the peace process, is intensifying its contacts with the U.S. sponsor of this process. It dispatched high-ranking diplomats and officials to Washington for coordination meetings.

Prior to Secretary Christopher's tour, during which he will pave the way for resuming the peace talks, there must be a coordinated Arab move to make Washington realize that the Arab parties do not see how these talks can resume while the sword of deportation is brandished in the face of the sons of the occupied Arab territories. This is especially so since deportation, in principle, does not only concern the sons of the occupied Arab territory or the deportees alone, but it also concerns all the Arab parties taking part in the peace talks. These Arab parties are viewing with great concern this negative development in the U.S. position, which was reflected in the U.S.-Israeli deal on the deportee issue. Through agreement on keeping 300 Palestinians deported to Marj-al-Zuhur, even if it is within the reduced time period proposed in this deal, the U.S. stand represents a backing down from the principled U.S. rejection of mass deportations.

The dangerous aspect of this negative development in U.S. policy does not only lie in abandoning the principle of rejecting the deportation order, which Israel will employ to serve the policy of the ridding the Arab territories of its sons, but in the fact that U.S. aid to Israel is continuing to help absorb Jewish immigrants, who totaled more than 452,000 over the past three years.

From this premise, in addition to the need to solve the issue of Palestinian deportees before the peace talks are resumed, there is a need to precede the resumption of these talks with a new U.S. commitment to reject any future deportations of the sons of the occupied Arab territories.

We are certain that the United States appreciates the extent of concern expressed by the entire Arab world over this issue. This appreciation must be expressed through Washington's adoption of a frank and clear stand on this issue to assuage these fears.

Moreover, Washington's continued abetting of Israel's falsehood will encourage the latter to go too far in its defiance of international law and to escalate its policy of suppression and terrorism against the sons of the occupied Arab territories. We have noticed this over the past weeks as the number of victims has reached record levels.

Therefore, as it prepares to involve itself seriously in the Middle East peace process by dispatching Secretary of State Christopher to the region, the U.S. Administration must take into account Arab concerns over its obvious bias toward the Israeli stands which clash with all international and human laws and norms.

In any case, Arab hopes to deal with their own issues remain pinned on what their leaders agree on. Hence, these hopes are pinned on the outcome of these Arab contacts, especially the meetings and intense activity in Damascus, in terms of understanding and joint positions that would confront any possible pressure by others. This is accomplished through firm stands that reflect the true Arab weight in the international arena and translate this weight into real pressure and influence to wrest legitimate Arab rights.

TISHRIN on Iraqi Integrity

JN1102094093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0555 GMT 11 Feb 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Iraq's Territorial Integrity Is an Arab and Regional Responsibility," the newspaper TISHRIN comments on the intensified political activity represented by the important contacts, meetings, and visits by several Arab leaders and officials and prominent political figures.

TISHRIN stresses that while assessing the results of this political activity, Syria proceeds from a basic and important principle; namely, that no one, be it an external force or a state, has the right to impose its conditions or dictate its terms on the region's peoples. Similarly, no one, whoever he maybe, has the right to tamper with the higher pan-Arab interests, threaten inter-Arab relations, or exploit the setbacks the Arab nation is suffering in order to sabotage its unity, and undermine and endanger its existence.

TISHRIN adds: Syria's pan-Arab and regional role is aimed in two directions: bolstering and entrenching the pillars of an effective and true Arab solidarity, and securing the appropriate conditions and atmosphere to promote relations with the friendly neighboring countries based on dialogue, historic ties, Islamic brotherhood, and settling any differences through understanding, consultations, coordination, cooperation, and fruitful, serious, and objective discussion.

TISHRIN adds: Based on this, the conference of the foreign ministers of Turkey, Iran, and Syria was held in Damascus to reiterate the importance of the region's security, safety, and stability within the principles of the UN Charter and regional sovereignty.

The paper notes the irrevocable determination, which was emphasized at the Damascus meeting, to safeguard the territorial integrity of Iraq, which is a sacred issue that cannot be undermined, relinquished, or ignored.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: In light of the expected repercussions, should Iraq be exposed to the threat of partition, on Iraq itself, the Arab nation, and the neighboring states, such as Turkey and Iran, the foreign ministers of the three states have taken the possible dangers into consideration, and stressed the need to confront developments through coordinating their stands and continuing consultations. They also agreed to hold their next meeting in Tehran in June. This is further proof of the great importance of the dynamic action and persistent efforts aimed at safeguarding Iraq's territorial integrity, security and stability.

Kuwaiti 'Discordant Voices' on Israeli Ties Criticized

JN1102113193 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Damascus 11 Feb (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN criticizes the ignoble voices recently raised in Kuwait calling for separation from the Arabs and building bridges, and establishing ties or alliances, with Israel.

In a political analysis entitled "Discordant Voices," the paper says: Such a call is not based on angry feelings toward the Iraqi regime's conduct, as some may claim, but on well-known connections that aim at keeping Kuwait and the entire Arabian Gulf region under the direct custodianship of foreign forces.

The paper asserts that the Kuwaitis were never separated from their Arabism throughout, or after, the ordeal. Nor did we hear an official voice in Kuwait calling for what these vindictive voices are calling for. This, the paper says, confirms that Israel is nothing but an enemy to Kuwait and the entire Arab nation.

The paper says the suspect writers' call is like inviting the wolf into the sheep fold. Israel, the paper maintains, will never be a friend to Kuwait or any other Arab country and will not show mercy to any one in Kuwait or any Arab country when it has the opportunity to strike to implement its schemes.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: In general, foreigners see in Kuwait only oil wells and profitable investment. The Arabs, however, and Syria in particular, see in it a fraternal people, and giving support to them is a duty and a pioneering pan-Arab action.

Afghanistan

Government Forces Capture Strategic Rebel Hilltop Posts

BK1102092693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0908 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Feb 11 (AFP)—Afghan Defence Ministry forces launched a successful dawn attack against rebel guerrillas on strategic hills in western Kabul Thursday [11 February], capturing heavy weapons positions after several hours fighting, a senior government aide said.

Meanwhile efforts were continuing through Pakistani mediation to end the violent and bitter conflict between the government and its main enemy, the Hezb-e Eslami faction of Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Fighters of the Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat faction of Ayatollah 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari were pushed off the hill-tops in a two-pronged attack coordinated by the Defence Ministry, and government forces were threatening Mazari's headquarters, the senior aide to Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud said.

"For some days now we have had a problem with the Mazari faction of Hezb-e Wahdat. They tried to capture the Hotel Intercontinental and the surrounding Baghi-e Bala area, the Kabul television tower mountain and other places but failed," he said.

Defence Ministry forces, backed up by Russian-made T-62 battle tanks, were now advancing against Mazari's headquarters. The adjacent polytechnic college was already in government hands, the aide said.

He said mojahedin of the Ettehad-e Eslami faction led by Rasul Sayyaf were fighting with the government troops.

The Hotel Intercontinental was being used Thursday by government troops for staging their attacks. Canisters of Kalashnikov anmmunition were strewn about the floor and stacks of recoilless rifle rounds were seen in the restaurant.

Ten hotel staffers were still on duty, but the hotel has been badly damaged in the fighting and will take much restoration before it is ready to receive guests.

Rockets and mortar bombs fired by Wahdat were still falling into the residential area below the Intercontinental, some landing near the former British embassy.

Rockets fired on north Kabul and the city centre late Wednesday also came from Wahdat, government sources said.

One rocket exploded in an Afghan antique and carpet shop just five metres (yards) to the right of the main entrance of the Pakistan Embassy, destroying the shop and blowing in embassy windows.

"That was the sixth rocket in the last 10 days which has exploded within a hair's breadth of us," a senior Pakistan diplomat said.

But he said he did not think the near miss would influence the Pakistanis to close down their mission in Kabul.

"As of now we are standing firm, but the final decision depends on the government" in Islamabad, the diplomat said.

General Hamid Gul, the ex-head of the Pakistan military intelligence agency, was meeting with Hekmatyar Thursday, Defence Ministry sources said.

Hamid Gul, who has previously mediated peace talks between bitter rivals Mas'ud and Hekmatyar, was said to be seeking a compromise between the two sides, who have been fighting a vicious battle for 24 days now.

Islamic fundamentalist Hekmatyar refuses to recognise the election in December by an assembly of factional representatives of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Hundreds of rockets fired on Kabul by the rebels have killed and wounded thousands of people. Most foreign embassies have closed or been reduced to a skeleton staff, the latest being China, which announced in Beijing Thursday that all its personnel would be evacuated "temporarily.

Missile Attacks on Kabul Kill 24, Injure 100

LD1102163193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] An authoritive security source said that last night and today a total of 150 missiles were fired on Kabul by the opportunist section of Mazari [leader of Islamic Unity Party] and the rebellious branch of Golboddin [Hekmatyar]. As a result of this, 24 of our compatriots were martyred and more than 100 Kabul citizens were injured.

Chinese Evacuate Kabul; Rocket Barrage Continues

BK1102133693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1319 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By Terence White]

[Excerpt] Kabul, Feb 11 (AFP)—The entire staff of the Chinese Embassy evacuated the beseiged Afghan capital Kabul Thursday [11 February] by regular Afghan Airlines flight to Pakistan as fighting continued between government and rebel forces.

Chinese charge d'affaires Zhang Min said some of the eight evacuated staff would stay in Pakistan, and the rest would return to China.

"We will return to Afghanistan when the situation is suitable," Zhang said, referring to the continuing rebel rocket barrage on the capital.

The Chinese took 11 rockets in their compound, six of which were direct hits on embassy buildings.

China first established diplomatic relations with Afghanistan in 1950, and opened the embassy in 1955.

The Italians, Indians and Turks have already pulled out of Kabul, leaving only Pakistan, North Korea, Indonesia, Iran and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) represented in the Afghan capital.

Defence Ministry sources meanwhile said they had captured the headquarters of the Ayatollah 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari faction of the Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat coalition in western Kabul.

Fighting in the western suburbs began at dawn with a two-pronged government attack against Wahdat heavy weapons positions on the mountains behind the rebel headquarters.

Mazari was said to have escaped and fighting was continuing. [passage omitted]

Pakistani Figures Arrive To Mediate Cease-Fire

LD1002165593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Today was quiet after the heavy missile attacks of the last two days, and official sources have confirmed that some figures have embarked on efforts for talks and cease-fire.

Despite the fact that last evening a number of missiles were fired at the city by the forces of Golboddin Hekmatyar, the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section, citing official sources, reported that the personalities who have come from Pakistan include Pakistani retired general Hamid Gol and Pakistani Labor Minister Ejazul Haq, son of the late President Ziaul Haq.

Official sources confirm that they are trying for the commencement of a cease-fire and negotiations.

Commenting on the news, a BAKHTAR political commentator writes that the mopping-up operations by the Islamic State of Afghanistan which began three weeks ago to eliminate the threat of missile attacks by Golboddin Hekmatyar on Kabul city has ended its first phase. During the last offensive of the rebel forces against the positions of the Islamic state forces, when they were defeated in a counterattack, more than 350 rebels were killed and more than 700 were wounded.

Official sources have emphasized several times that the operations will continue until the missile attacks by Golboddin Hekmatyar on Kabul city have been eliminated and their positions are handed over to the state—unless the rebel forces surrender their weapons to the Ministry of Defense or to a state-appointed committee.

Esteemed Ahmad Shah Masud, minister of defense of the Islamic state, told REUTER in an interview that the government will not accept a temporary cease-fire. However, peace and a permanent cease-fire leading to a permanent cessation of attacks could be an opportunity for peace and a cease-fire. [sentence as heard]

Official sources said that the state welcomes all sorts of peace efforts. However, these efforts should bring about permanent peace.

Rabbani Message Lauds Assassinated Paktia Governor

LD1002183093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Message from Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, on the assassination of Paktia Governor Mawlana Mansur—read by announcer]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: With deep sadness we will say that the filthy hands of rebels and enemies of the homeland and Islam have made us mourn the true sons of Islam and the Islamic revolution. With the martyrdom of Mawlawi Nasrollah Mansur, deputy head of the Islamic Revolution Movement [Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami] and the governor of Paktia Province, our beloved and heroic country lost a sympathetic and self- sacrificing son.

Before the communist coup d'etat the late Mawlawi was engaged in Islamic teaching in the forefronts of knowledge and education. After the advent of the communist regime and the occupation by the Red Army of the former Soviet Union he was in the hot trenches of war and jihadi politics. While we consider the martyrdom of this religious scholar a great loss for Afghanistan, and in particular for centers of religious education, and strongly condemn it, we also warn those professional criminals and murderers whose hands are stained with the pure blood of the late Mawlana that they will not achieve their sinister goals by carrying out such anti-Islamic actions. With the martyrdom of religious scholars not only will the progress of the Islamic revolution not be weakened, but also its Islamic and popular influence will increase by its righteousness. It will encourage religious leaders to increase their efforts in cultural and educational areas more than ever before and expose the filthy faces of the enemies of the faith.

While we consider ourselves in the sorrow of the late Mawlana Mansur, we wish that the martyrdom of this great mojahed will be accepted by God and grant condolences to members of his family and friends. [passage omitted]

Company Guards Kill Interior Ministry Official

LD1002154193 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The head of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the coalition administration was killed in Kabul by guards of a trading company, where he had gone for an attempted theft.

Quoting a source of the information department of [words indistinct], a correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom reports that the head of the Criminal Investigation Department in the Internal Affairs Ministry, Masud Hasham, was killed by armed guards of a trading company while attempting to rob the company in Kolola Poshta.

The report says that on 7 February, Masud Hasham, along with two of his guards, went to rob a private trading company, namely (?Jamaloddin Sherzai) company. However, when he arrived in the vicinity of the company, he was confronted by the company's armed guards, as a result of which the official along with his two guards were killed.

After the incident, which occurred close to the Austrian Embassy, the head of security affairs of the coalition administration moved their bodies from the area and transported them by helicopter to their fraternal graveyard.

The report adds that Masud Hasham was in charge of the security of the hall where the fake Reconciliation and Settlement Council met in Kabul. After the end of that meeting, he took away carpets and some other goods with the help of his partners.

India

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

LD1002180193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Excerpts] New Delhi, 10 Feb (KUNA)—Today India reaffirmed its complete commitment to Kuwait's independence and territorial integrity. At the same time it stressed the need to fully and sternly implement the UN Security Council resolutions to establish security and stability in the Gulf area. This was said by Indian Foreign Minister D. Singh during his talks with Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad arrived in New Delhi this evening from Islamabad on a two-day visit during which he will hold talks with Indian officials on issues including the situation in the Gulf area and Kuwaiti-Indian relations.[passage omitted]

On his arrival in Delhi Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad told newsmen that his talks in New Delhi will include Iraqi noncompliance with the Security Council resolutions and Iraqi violations of the border.

He described his Indian visit as diplomatic. He said he had similar talks in Iran, Syria, Egypt, and the Gulf Cooperation Council states dealing with the situation in the Gulf area and Iraqi procrastination regarding the Security Council resolutions—a matter that has led to more tension in the area. He said that his talks here will also include bilateral relations which he described as satisfactory. [passage omitted]

During his talks with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Indian Foreign Minister Singh praised Kuwait's decision to permit the return of about 120,000 Indian nationals to Kuwait after the liberation and he pointed out the prospects of cooperation between the two countries in development fields, especially in petrochemicals. [passage omitted]

Further Report

BK1102093693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Kuwait has expressed its desire to cooperate with India in the international forums and stressed the importance of strengthening bilateral economic ties. Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Al-Sabah said this during his talks with the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, in New Delhi. The two countries endorsed a settlement of India-Pakistan issues under the provisions of the Simla Agreement. Mr. Dinesh Singh stressed India's determination to maintain and strengthen secularism in the country. India reaffirmed its full commitment to the UN Security Council resolutions relating to Kuwait and the Gulf war emphasizing the security and territorial integrity of all states in the region.

Government Bans 25 Feb BJP Rally in New Delhi

BK1102091093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The government has decided not to give permission to the proposed BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] rally at the Boat Club in the capital on the 25th of this month. This was anounced by the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, in New Delhi today. In a statement, he said while in a normal situation the holding of a public rally is a legitimate democratic activity, the demand being put forward by the BJP in support of its rally are inherently dangerous as tension generated between communities has not fully subsided at present. Mr. Chavan regretted that the BJP has not given a positive response to the request to reconsider its plans and said this is not the time for provocative actions.

Recalling the events of the sixth of December, the home minister said despite the assurances and affirmations of the BJP and its allies, the kar seva [voluntary service for temple construction] organizers had completely failed to contain and control the situation in Ayodhya. Subsequent events, he said, led to loss of life and property and

destruction of the livelihood of a large number of people. These have led to fears, suspicion, and distrust between different communities.

The home minister said the memory of these incidents inspires little confidence that the BJP rally will be peaceful and free of untoward incidents. The government, Mr. Chavan said, is convinced that this is the time to look forward and try to heal and not reopen the wounds of the past. The home minister said in an orderly and democratic society governed by the rule of law, disputes must be resolved through discussion and dialogue or by respecting court's pronouncements.

Mr. Chavan pointed out that the government had already made a reference to the Supreme Court for its opinion on whether there was a temple at the site where the demolished structure stood. He recalled that the government has made a commitment to take legislative and other action after the Supreme Court gives its opinion.

Mr. Chavan said all political parties and organizations believing in national integrity and unity must reaffirm their commitment to strengthen the forces of secularism. He said this is necessary to restore an unbreakable sense of communal harmony and peace.

Rally To Go Ahead

BK1102125593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has criticized the ban on its proposed Boat Club rally. The party vice president, Mr. K.R. Malkani, termed the government action as arbitrary. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi this evening, he maintained that the BJP will go ahead with its program. Mr. Malkani alleged that the govenment has gone back on its assurance to parliament that the BJP will be allowed to function freely.

Congress-I has welcomed the government's decision to ban BJP rally in the capital. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told newspersons in New Delhi today that with the experience of Ayodhya, it is difficult to accept the assurances of BJP that the proposed rally would be peaceful.

Congress-I Resolution Against BJP Criticized

BK1002125693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party has criticized the Congress-I Working Committee's resolution blaming the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] for the 6 December incident in Ayodhya and for the violence in Bombay and other places. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party vice president, Mr. K.R. Malkani, said the union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, is on record saying that Ayodhya incidents were not preplanned. The BJP also criticized the customs duty reduction on 35 consumer items, saying it would cripple the domestic industries. The party took serious exception for announcing the concessions before the budget session.

Rao Admits Recent Violence Set Back Economic Reforms

BK1102040293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The prime minister has admitted that there has been a temporary setback to the process of economic liberalization because of recent violence in some parts of the country. Addressing a news conference in Shillong last night, Mr. Narasimha Rao however said the attention has been shifted to the liberalization program as the situation is returning to normal now. He said three world leaders who visited the country recently have gone back with the impression that the liberalization process had been held up only for some time. Mr. Rao said the German chancellor, Mr. Helmut Kohl, is arriving in the capital on the 18th of this month. The visits of these world leaders show that the country is marching toward the right direction, he added.

Asked about the problem of insurgency in the northeast, Mr. Rao said that the problem cannot be solved by a cut-and-dried policy. There are different reasons for the problem in the various states and there cannot be uniform policy to solve the issue. He made it clear that no negotiations can be held with any group which does not believe in the unity and integrity of the country.

Rao Sends Officials To Settle Discord With Ally

BK1102034593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has asked Mr. Motilal Vora, former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, and Mr. K.V. Tangavellu, union minister of state for welfare, to go to Madras to sort out the differences between the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] and the Congress-I. This was stated by the Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, in New Delhi yesterday. It may be recalled that six ministers of the Jayalalitha government said in Madras yesterday that the alliance between the AIADMK and the Congress-I is over as the Congress-I did not support the resolution moved by the ruling party to condemn the alleged imposition of Hindi in the State Assembly. The pradesh [state] Congress-I president, Mr. Ramamurthy, however said in Trichy that in spite of the misunderstanding between the two parties the alliance will continue.

More Paramilitary Forces Deployed in Tripura for Polls

BK1102003793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The Center has agreed to immediately deploy 20 more companies of paramilitary forces in Tripura to assist the state administration in the smooth conduct of polls. This was stated by the minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, at Agartala today. He said that additional companies of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] and Assam Rifles will be airlifted to the state. The

minister said that 12,000 personnel of different forces would be at the disposal of the state government to conduct the elections in a peaceful manner.

The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, also paid a brief visit to Agartala today. He held discussions with the chief minister, Mr. Samir Ranjan Burman; GOC-in-C [general officer commanding in chief], Eastern Command, Lieutenant General Zamir Mahmud, and senior officials and reviewed the overall situation in the state.

Fencing Along Pakistan Border in Punjab Completed

BK1102093093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] In Punjab, the fencing of the entire 553-km border with Pakistan touching the districts of Ferozepur, Amritsar, and Gurdaspur has been completed. Talking to our Chandigarh correspondent, a senior BSF [Border Security Force] official said the installation of floodlights and modern alarm system and continuous patrolling have controlled to a large extent the smuggling of arms, ammunition, and narcotics across the border. It has also reduced the entry of trained militants from Pakistan into Punjab.

The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, said today that the country is prepared to meet any challenge from across the borders. Addressing the officers and jawans [soldiers] at an army cantonment near Kohima this morning, he reminded them of their vital role in safeguarding the interest of the nation. Earlier, talking to newsmen, Mr. Pawar said there has been substantial reduction in insurgent and militant activities in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjan, and the Northeast.

Iran

Anniversary of Revolution Marked 11 February

Millions Attend Rallies

LD1102105093 Tehran IRNA in English 0811 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Feb. 11, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told a huge crowd of people here at Azadi square today that over 30 million people were attending the nationwide rallies marking the 14th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution.

In remarks addressed to the people here the president urged international relations experts to offer appropriate analyses on the incentive of the Iranian people's massive presence in the scene.

At a news conference here last week, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani had predicted a massive turn-out in today's rallies and urged the foreign journalists here to personally witness the rallies and the people's continued enthusiastic support for Islamic revolution and republic.

The Iranian people with their all-out participation in today's rallies once again vowed their allegiance to the Islamic system of government, the aspirations of the late imam and the leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

In Tehran demonstrators marching from various directions thronged the Azadi square with chants of 'Allah-o-Akbar' (God is great), 'Death to the U.S.' and 'Death to Israel'. They also carried pictures of Imam Khomeyni, Ayatollah Khamene'i amd President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

"Tell the world people on behalf of the revolutionary Muslim students of Iran that the United States is still our number one enemy because of her crimes against humanity and the world Muslims, particularly against Iran's revolutionary nation," Taqi Mohammadi, a medical college student told IRNA.

"The leaders of world arrogance should know that as long as they do not stop their crimes 'Down with U.S.' and 'Down with Israel' will remain international slogans," he said.

He said if the U.S. leaders were wise enough they would learn a lesson from what befell the ex-Soviet Union and would leave the world people alone.

Among the attractive scene of the Tehran rally were the active presence of women, the disabled on wheelchairs, fathers carrying kids on their shoulders and mothers holding their babies in their arms braving the cold morning winter weather.

"Our children have come to the school of the revolution today to learn the lesson of the revolution at the Bahman 22 [11 February] rally and get how to fight the enemies of islam and the Islamic revolution," a father told IRNA. [sentence as received]

There were many foreign guests and journalists attending the Tehran rally.

The special stand north fo the Azadi square was decorated in the form of a ship—a manifestation of the successful sailing of the Islamic revolution through the turbulent sea of arrogant plots.

Havaniruz (Ground Force's Air Support) helicopters landed parachutists and fired flares over the Azadi square.

Army helicopters also dropped flowers on the head of demonstrators in Tehran and were responded with joyful shouts and waving hands.

The demonstrators were also treated with cookies, fruits and soft drinks on their way to the Azadi square.

A group of 1,400 students in 14 orderly columns marking the 14th anniversary of the Islamic revolution, while wearing three-color (national flag) garments, performed revolutionary songs.

In addition to Muslims, the presence of demonstrators from the minorities, including Armenians, Zoroastrians and Assyrians, was outstanding.

Joined by their religious leaders, the minorities too carried pictures of Imam Khomeyni and shared the slogans with their Muslim brothers and sisters.

This year's anniversary rallies were overshadowed by two sad incidents, namely Monday's tragic air crash in Tehran which killed 134 people, and the recent devastating floods which wrecked havoc in many parts of the country inflicting heavy casualties and damage.

An official at the coordination council of the Islamic Propagation Organization put the number of the people attending the Tehran rally at four to five million. He said the estimate had been made by helicopters flying over the Tehran skies.

Domestic journalists too put the number of the demonstrators at 4-5 million and there was agreement among Iranian and foreign reporters that the number of the people attending the rally was much greater than last year.

President's Anniversary Address

LD1102112293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0715 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Speech by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at public rally to mark the anniversary of 1979 revolution in Tehran's Azadi Square—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God and peace be upon the apostle of God and all his companions. I do not know how to thank you, our devoted people. I am a person like the rest of you, an individual in this boundless sea of human beings. I must not consider it my privilege to thank you. This occasion belongs to all of us. We are all in the same rank, going along the same path, and we are all one. We are all human beings, slaves of God.

Frankly this glorious scene, created by the people of Tehran on the streets and on this huge square today, is praiseworthy. One must praise this scene, on behalf of the people themselves. One must thank this boundless ocean of people. In view of my status and because I was elected by you to this position, I express this gratitude so that it may remain in history and so that the world will understand.

I do not know what the analysis of international observers and those who work on issues like this will be about our great popular epic. When I was coming here this morning, along the route from the northern districts of Tehran I could see the packed ranks of the people. Every one was pushing to reach Azadi Square but to no avail, because from a long distance away it was impossible to push forward any more. Correspondents report that the situation is the same in the eastern districts. The people have filled the eastern streets of Azadi Square right up to Enqelab Square. Toward the southern districts from Azadi Square, the people are packed all the way to the Azari T-junction and Ayatollah Sa'idi Avenue. The crowd is still building in the distant streets. Many people are still striving to reach here on foot.

One cannot easily overlook such issues. A thinking person, a sociologist, a politician, or someone who works on human phenomena cannot ignore these facts. Truly it is appropriate for the analysts and sociologists to search to find out why these events take place in Iran. Exactly 14 years ago, on this same Azadi Square we saw similar scenes. At that time our imam of the ummah [Khomeyni] had just returned home from his enforced exile. There were similar packed ranks of the people from here to Behesht-e Zahra [cemetery 30 km south of Azadi Square]. On that day, however, no one could imagine that the people would remain on the arena 14 years later to repeat the same epic and these proud scenes. At that time it was thought there were excited waves of people caught up in the tumult of the revolution. It was thought the wave would die down some day. But, contrary to predictions, the wave gained strength daily and today we can see that the wave is rising instead of retreating back to silence and tranquillity.

At the time of the revolution 14 years ago, the only wave was in Tehran. People came to Tehran from all over the country. But today, there are waves of people everywhere. In every town, in every village, and in every provincial capital that you visit today, you will see the same presence of the people, in proportion with the population of the town or village.

If, for example, there were three million people attending the rally in Tehran [14 years ago], today more than 30 million people have taken part in ceremonies all over the country. This needs serious analysis. Those who think of ways to manage societies and those who think of attracting the people to the arenas, should pay particular attention to developments in Iran. Truly this is not a small matter.

Of course, the sun will not disappear just because bats cannot bear to see the sunshine! Nothing will happen, the sun will continue to shine while the bats close their eyes. This problem will remain. There are grudge-bearing individuals facing us in the world. They do not wish to believe or see this glory with any eye. They close their eyes and turn away their cameras, silence their newspapers, and ask their press, radio, and television stations to ignore this glorious scene created by human beings.

The other point that must be taken into account within the same context is people's emotions. For a few seconds on the way here I was among the people and I walked with them. The feeling of happiness, joy, and freshness as well the revolutionary spirit and the heartfelt slogans make one really think. These people have left behind an eight-year war, they have suffered the extensive destruction of the era of defense, they have suffered the damage of sanctions. They have around them waves of poisonous

and misleading propaganda. Their ears are constantly bombarded by the screams of the misleading, slandering, and scaremongering loudspeakers of the antirevolution. But when you look at their faces, you can see they are really happy, really joyful, and fresh. And they sincerely love their revolution. [shouts of: God is great]

This issue is another aspect of this society. You may see gatherings—not as large as this—in other parts of the world. The majority consist of gatherings of the world's political parties. Of course, parties have members and they have commitments toward their parties. They have official gatherings in which a number people gather and shout slogans. That is one kind. But, there are not many [gatherings] in the world's history like yours.

You people are not affiliated to any group or party; no party has invited you. Men and women are carrying their children on their shoulders and have marched in the middle of this enthusiastic crowd, praying, shouting slogans, smiling, putting up with the freezing cold and the difficulties of marching. This is very different to the rallies of the world's political parties. There, they place chairs in huge squares and invite the people to come and sit on them, all according to a program. This [gathering] is not like that. The streets of Tehran are automatically filled with people; Azadi Square is automatically packed with people. The people's love, affection, and thoughts are boiling and manifesting themselves here. The world should reconsider its views on this issue.

I say to you honorable reporters, to the proprietors of the world's mass media, to political observers, to faculties of sociology: Just for once take note, think, analyze, and say what is happening in Iran, what this phenomenon is. If you could merge together all the gatherings which are taking place all over Iran at this moment, if you could place all the gatherings all over Iran in a single space and film it, then you would see what a sight it makes. You would see how many kilometers this grand gathering of women, men, and young people would cover. And they all chant the same slogan and have the same manner without having the benefit of partisan training and political teaching.

If the world would take one step backwards and think about the roots of these phenomena, then I think the world would adopt new decisions.

Since we are absorbed in this sea, we cannot think about it as well as you can; you must look at it objectively, in a fair manner and like a researcher. The question is: What it this about? This is a question you must ask yourselves. We are not the ones to reply to it; rather, the world's thinkers and sociologues must reply to it. They must say what it is.

What kind of a statement is it? Why are you so unfair with regard to the realities of history and the deep philosophical and human attractions? Why are you so hostile to human capital? Why don't you want to understand what humanity wants? And what can satisfy the human beings? Why do you think in such limited, regional, sectarian, geographical, and racial terms?

It is obvious that these issues come from the heart of the people. Human beings have found their lost nature. From Iran this revolution has renewed the link to heaven which was broken. This revolution has returned the people to God. Humans are looking for their God. In history God is everywhere but you cannot see him. They have restored their link to God through their revolution, their imam, and their leader. They have found the lost values of humanity.

Please do not try to limit these values. Do not analyze these issues incorrectly. Do do not distort them and pin labels such as fundamentalism and terrorism on them. The revolution is connected to the people's nature. They are prepared to sacrifice their lives for their legitimate natural wishes. They have sacrificed, and are sacrificing, their children, their youths. They are waiting and resisting. In the 14 years of the revolution, in the face of all the pressure exerted on them by the world's infernal powers, the people have become like tempered steel and see that this is the way.

They wanted independence; they feel that they have the most independent country on earth. They wanted freedom; they feel it with all their being that they are the freest people on earth. They sought God, they see that there are manifestations of God everywhere here. They despised the decadent and unrestrained western culture; they see that that corruptive culture is being driven out of their country like a wounded demon. They wanted construction; they see that their country's resources are being used for its construction.

These people deeply hated foreign domination; they see today that the strings of foreign rule have been cut from this country; that if foreigners come here they come to serve, to work, and to receive wages, which is desirable. These people see that their culture, their education, and their path are all moving in the right direction.

The beguiling propaganda that you have started cannot deprive the people of their conscience, what the people feel with all their being. You cannot corrupt the people. You could say everyday that there is a schism between the Iranian people and their revolution, that the people are disheartened.

Well, those who see this gathering on Azadi Square know full well that you are lying, that you are speaking deceptively. You say that there is no freedom in Iran, that there is suppression; the people feel with all their being that there is no one to give them orders; that it is their own idea, their own wish, their own will that moves them forward. Ask each and every person in this massive crowd why they have come to Azadi Square today. You could not find even one person who would say: They brought me here forcibly. You could not find one person who would say: I had no alternative. They have chosen to be here. [crowd chants: God is great]

You say that women's rights are not observed in Iran; those ladies who constitute half of the people present in gatherings everywhere—at Friday prayers, rallies, and so on—know that you are lying. If their rights are violated then why are they here?

In any case, I invite the world to revise its approach to this revolution and not try to cover the shining rays of this revolution with the black clouds of their ignorant prejudices. These rays of the revolution are shining bright and will penetrate the clouds. They should come and have a logical and humane approach.

I sincerely thank you honorable people, you lovable youths, you great people of humanity for your awareness, your maturity, and your understanding, for the fact that all the corruptive waves have not been able to corrupt you; and I thank you for your presence on the scene.

The executives [modiran] of the country must thank the nation for its loyalty and for the way the people are on the scene. The executives must thank the people in the most suitable way for the way the people support them. And the way for our executives to thank the people is to serve them even more. They must make even more efforts to remove the people's problems, to make their lives better, to build the people's homeland, and to bring about better conditions for people's jobs and to enhance the culture, employment opportunities, and education of our youth.

Of course, the executives do make efforts. But I agree that no matter how much we serve you, we are yet to repay the debt we owe you. All of you—your leader, your martyrs, and the immaculate spirits which are present in this angelic environment, next to this angelic shrine [Khomeyni's tomb]—have many expectations of us to which we must respond. Our disabled, our former POWs, the great families of all those self-sacrificing people who have sacrificed so much, will be happy with you and pray for you officials because you invest so much of your efforts for their welfare.

I hope that we can take suitable strides to respond to your demands to build your country and to remove obstacles in the way of the progress of your youth. I place you in God's hand. I thank all those individuals who carried out happy and cheerful programs for the 10 Days of Dawn. Happily, what we have wanted has now taken place—the 10 Days of Dawn period has been transformed into a happy institution: a festival which is inspiring and meaningful in our history. During these 10 days we make good all the ill feelings which happen over the year in our society and revolution. Thus reinvigorated we go to welcome the new year with renewed vigor. Peace be upon you, with God's blessing.

U.S. Called 'Mother of All Corruption'

LD1102110593 Tehran IRNA in English 0926 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA—An 11-point resolution was issued by the surging waves of enthusiasts who converged on "Azadi" (Liberty) Square from all corners of the capital Thursday [11 February] morning to mark the 14th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution and to renew allegiance to the principles set by the father of the Islamic revolution the late Imam Ruhollah al-Musavi Khomeyni.

The day marked the culmination of the ten-day-dawn which 14 years ago cast the decadent system of tyranny into the dustbin of history ten days after the return home from 15 years of exile of the enlightened imam.

With deafening cries of the Almighty's Majesty (Allaho-Akbar), the demonstrators made it clear that Imam Khomeyni's guidelines constitute the lasting and uncompromising principles of foreign and domestic policies of the Islamic republic system.

They also pledged allegiance to the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and stressed that following his orders and guidelines is a "religious obligation."

The resolution condemned deportation of Palestinians from their homeland, creation of tension in the newly-independent republics in Central Asia and the silence of international forums, as examples of conspiracies by global arrogance against the planet's one billion-plus Muslims.

It named the United States of America as the main culprit behind all crimes and ploys against Muslims and world Islamic movements, and announced readiness to smash the conspiracies of the U.S. "The mother of all corruption" in the contemporary era.

The roaring sea of faithful who spread for miles on end around the sprawling square on the western outskirts of the capital, condemned the genocide of Europe's native Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, the desecration of Islamic sanctuaries particularly the destruction of the Babri Mosque in Faizabad, India, and also voiced concern over the discord among the Mujahideen groups in Afghanistan and the new sufferings of the oppressed Afghan nation.

On domestic issues, they warned profiteers and hoarders who try to paralyze the economic structure and plans of the country and exert further pressure on the deprived layers of the society.

The resolution in conclusion condemned the attempts by those who introduce and spread corrupt culture in the Islamic society with the aim to undermine monotheistic thoughts.

UN Envoy Tells of Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations

LD1102105893 Tehran IRNA in English 0949 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] United Nations HQ. (New York), Feb. 11, IRNA—Iraqi forces on five occasions violated the cease-fire regulations on borders with Iran between October 6-15, Iran's U.N. Envoy Kamal Kharrazi announced.

Kharrazi in two separate reports to U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said Iraqi forces opened fire on Iranian positions and forces by light weapons and carried out military movements by stationing forces in the buffer zone.

In the first report, he said that a loud explosion was heard in the vicinity of the "Majid-Qarir" village in the general zone overlooking Qasr-e Shirin as a result of which columns of white smoke covered the area. The cause of the explosion was not known.

In his second letter, the Iranian envoy informed the U.N. chief that the Iraqi forces, stationed in the region overlooking "Naft-Shahr" fired an 82-mm mortar shell at the Iranian forces on December 27. Fortunately the shelling caused no casualties.

Velayati, Palestinian Leaders Meet in Damascus

LD1102132193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The heads of the 10 Palestinian groups and organizations met and conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati at our country's embassy in Damascus this morning.

At the meeting the heads of the Palestinian groups submitted a comprehensive report to the foreign minister on the latest developments in the occupied lands, the continuation of the intifadah and the expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland. They thanked the great leader, the nation and government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their support for the people and ideals of Palestine.

Muslims Urged To Adopt Common Strategy

LD1102114893 Tehran IRNA in English 1059 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA—The Islamic world should adopt a common strategy to counter the pressures and threats of arrogant powers, head of Iran's Majles Foreign Policy Commission, Mohammad Javad Larijani told visiting Jordanian MP Hamza Mansur last night.

He said the enemies of Islam fearful of the globalization of the Islamic movement have launched a wide anti-Islamic offensive around the world which warrants the need of a united strategy by Muslims to defend themselves.

Countering colonialist powers is a hard task which needs sacrifices, and Muslims should mobilize themselves in this regard, added Larijani.

The Jordanian official in reference to the Israeli threat against his country and other Islamic states in the region, called the American presence in the region as another danger to the Muslim nations.

He briefed the Iranian MP on his country's current socio-political situation especially Zionist attempts to bully the Muslim world.

The world Muslims' attention focussed on the Islamic revolution and they consider Iran as their advocate, he added.

Pakistan

Spokesman on Peace Plan For Bosnia-Hercegovina

BK1002145793 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Pakistan says the peace plan for Bosnia-Hercegovina should be just, viable, and fully safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today the peace plan presented by Lord Owen and Mr. Cyrus Vance, if implemented in its present form, would reward the Serbian aggressors by legitimizing their acquisition of territory by force and through the pernicious practice of ethnic cleansing. The spokesman said the peace plan does not contain any measure to punish or redress the grave crimes committed by the Serbs, especially against the Muslim population of Bosnia. The spokesman said the success of any peace plan would depend on its acceptance by all the parties to the conflict, appropriate punishment for the aggressor, and the rehabilitation of displaced Bosnians to their homeland.

Turkish Defense Minister Talks With President

BK1002143793 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The defense minister of Turkey, Mr. Nevzat Ayaz, called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad today and discussed with him matters of bilateral interest. During the meeting, the determination was reiterated to further expand and diversify the excellent relations that already exist between the two countries. Possibilities of further collaboration between the two countries in various fields, including defense, were also reviewed and a shared desire was expressed to increase cooperation in economic and other fields. Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah was also present at the meeting.

Meets With Sharif

BK1102062893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Turkish Defense Minister Nevzat Ayaz called on the prime minister in Islamabad yesterday and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest. The two sides expressed satisfaction on the cordial and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Turkey and stressed the need for the promotion of cooperation in all spheres in the interest of the

two countries. Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah was also present during the meeting.

Turkish Delegation Delivers Demirel Letter to Sharif

BK1102150493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Turkey has assured full cooperation to Pakistan in its efforts for development. The assurance has been given in a letter the Turkish prime minister, Mr. Suleyman Demirel, has sent to the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. The letter was delivered to the prime minister by the leader of a high-level delegation which called on him in Islamabad. The chairman of the board of Enka Construction Company of Turkey, Mr. Sadik Kara, is leading the delegation. The delegation apprised the prime minister about the massive development Turkey has made in the communications sector during the last decade. The delegation on behalf of the Turkish Government also offered to assist and cooperate with Pakistan in the development of infrastructure, especially the highway sector. The prime minister highly appreciated the gesture of the Turkish prime minister and welcomed the Turkish offer. Pakistan-Turkish cooperation in developmental activities within the framework of ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] also came under discussion. The federal minister for finance, Mr. Sartaj Aziz; Minister of State for Communications Mr. Mohammad Azam Khan Hoti; deputy chairman of planning, and federal secretaries for communications and finance were also present on the occasion.

The ninth session of Pakistan-Turkey joint ministerial commission begins in Islamabad on Saturday [13 February]. The three-day session will explore possibilities for further promoting economic cooperation between the two countries. Turkish Minister of State Mr. Omer Barutcu will lead his country's delegation, while Pakistan side will be led by the federal minister for finance, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, at the session.

Kuwaiti Minister, Kanjoo Discuss Issues

BK1002144193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The officials of Kuwait and Pakistan today discussed in detail bilateral relations and expressed determination to further promote them. Kuwaiti side was led by Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, while Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo led Pakistan side. The Kuwaiti foreign minister briefed on the situation in the Gulf region. Pakistan side called upon Iraq to fully implement the provisions of the Security Council resolutions. Regarding the Kashmir issue, the Kuwaiti side reaffirmed its stand that the Kashmir dispute should be resolved peacefully through negotiations according to UN resolutions and the Simla agreement. Both sides called upon the international community to adopt a firm stand on the plight of Muslim people in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

On Afghanistan, they expressed concern over the continuing fighting and reaffirmed their call to all parties to immediately stop the fighting and bloodshed.

Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah has expressed concern over human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and asked India to resolve the Kashmir problem through negotiations. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, the Kuwaiti foreign minister said during his visit to India, he will certainly raise the question of Kashmir issue with the Indian leaders and will urge them to resolve it in the light of the UN resolutions and Simla agreement. He also expressed shock over demolition of Babri Masjid [mosque] and killing of Muslims and called upon India to rebuild the masjid at its original site and protect the lives and property of the Muslims. He said assets of Pakistanis and expatriates are safe and secure in Kuwait, who left the country in the wake of the Gulf war.

Japanese Delegation Discusses Nuclear Program

OW1102124293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1144 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 11 KYODO—A six-member Japanese team led by Mitsuro Donowaki, an expert on arms control and disarmament, held talks Thursday [11 February] on Pakistan's nuclear program and the overall nuclear issue, officials said. Donowaki formerly was Japan's ambassador in Geneva for the U.N. Disarmament Conference.

The Japanese team's visit is the result of a trip to Japan in December by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to explain Pakistan's and India's stance on the nuclear issue. Pakistan fielded a nine-member team at the Islamabad talks led by Secretary General of Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki. Earlier, Donowaki held similar discussions in New Delhi with leaders and officials of the Indian Government.

Like many Western countries, Japan wants Pakistan and India to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) and reduce their military budgets.

According to Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz, Japan has withheld a yen credit package worth between 250 million dollars and 300 million dollars. It was to have been signed last December, pending the visit of the Japanese delegation and it getting a satisfactory reply on the nuclear issue.

PRC Delegation Meets With Officials

BK1102082793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The Chinese parliamentary delegation led by Seypidin Aze, vice chairman of the Standing Committee

of the National People's Congress, met with Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad yesterday and exchanged views on various aspects of bilateral ties. The prime minister apprised the delegation of the Kashmir situation and stressed the need for resolving the issue in accordance with the UN resolutions, saying that it is necessary for peace and stability in the region.

The Chinese delegation also called on Akram Zaki, the foreign affairs secretary general. The secretary general expressed the hope that the PRC will continue to play its role in devising the new international order based on justice and the UN Charter. In this context, Pakistan-China friendship was viewed as an important element in maintaining peace and stability in South Asia. Akram Zaki also briefed the Chinese delegation of the atrocities unleashed by the Indian forces in the occupied valley of Kashmir. He said that extremist activities are also rising in India which resulted in the demolition of the Babri Mosque and the murder of thousands of innocent Muslims. Seypidin Aze said that China is not unaware of what is happening in occupied Kashmir and India. He emphasized that China and Pakistan should cooperate with each other in order to play an important role in South Asia.

PRC Ambassador: Defense Cooperation To Continue

BK1102142593 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Feb 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 10—China would continue to have close cooperation with Pakistan in the field of defence in the interest of regional as well as world peace. This assurance was given by Zhou Gang, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan on Wednesday [10 February] evening while informally talking to newsmen in the Parliament House before the dinner hosted by Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad in the honour of the visiting Chinese Parliamentary delegation.

He said China had transferred technology to Pakistan various sectors of defence. To a question, the Chinese Ambassador said Pakistan had already attained remarkable advancement in the field of missile technology. He did not respond to a question about the supply of M-11 missile to Pakistan.

Mr Zhou said his country backed Pakistan's proposal for the five-nation conference on denuclearisation of South Asia. He said China believed that Pakistan's nuclear programme was meant for peaceful purposes. Chinese cooperation with Pakistan in the field of nuclear development was aimed at peaceful purposes. This assistance would continue as per Chinese commitments, he added.

To a question about the activities of Dalai Lama, he said that Beijing was fully aware of intrigues, hatched at international level.

Replying to another question, Mr Zhou said China had no direct role to play on Kashmir issue. "It is a bilateral issue between Pakistan and India. It should be resolved through negotiations according to the resolutions of the United Nations. Simla Accord also provieds basis for such negotiations", he asserted.

He said the progress and development of Pakistan was dear to the Chinese people. Friendship with Pakistan was a corner-stone in Chinese foreign policy. "We consider Pakistan a source of stability in the region. Our friendship is based upon international norms and well-established principles," he added.

To a question, Mr Gang said Beijing fully understood Pakistan's concern about the development of Indian missile technology, New Delhi's nuclear programme and Indian arms build-up.

He said Chinese efforts for normalisation with India would not hamper its relations with Pakistan. "We also have many problems with India, but our endeavour is to solve these through peaceful means. As a close friend we will give the same advice to Pakistan". he added.

When asked about the strategic importance of Central Asian Republics, he said China would continue to cooperate with these republics. "We have excellent relations with these republics." he said.

Editorial Criticizes Rao Statements in Interview

BK1002021793 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Feb 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Come Now, Mr Rao You Must Be Joking"]

[Text] Among the many engaging graces for which we hold India's suave Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in the highest esteem, his sense of humour and sense of the historic moment would be most remarkable. Both of these have come into full play in his live phone interview with the prestigious BBC radio-television network. The hallmark of the ultimate in courage is serenity in the face of a series of grave crises. And look at the supreme serenity with which Mr Rao dismissed the Kashmir problem as rather "difficult", something perhaps like traffic jams in Connaught Circus in New Delhi at peak hours; a nuisance the Delhi-ites have learned to live with. As for the insurrection which some 450,000 crack Indian Army troops have been battling with and no sign of a full in sight, Mr Rao was even more tranquil. It's a "small fringe" of what he presumably ignores as rather playful bunch of boys and girls, trying to keep themselves diverted from the humdrum of an uneventful life. About the Ayodhya episode and what followed in its wake all over India, notably in Bombay and Ahmadabad, the Ghazal-loving Mr Rao could not be less concerned. In Ayodhya it was a mere case of his men arriving a trifle late. And punctuality in reporting to duty is not a very oriental, and specially, Indian fashion. The troops arrived a little late, while the demolition squads turned out to be just a touch too smart. Nothing really to get upset about. Besides, doesn't this sort of thing now look very much like part of the routine? People are prone to

get killed in what they call rush of blood. Forget about it. If the Hindu militants sometimes make short work of their Muslim neighbours, don't they also eliminate whole villages of the untouchables? And that could be as the saying goes, a way of life. The pattern is hardly unfamiliar. It's so well set as to be something of a done thing, a tradition, if you please.

It is hard to believe that the Indian Prime Minister Rao is really convinced that the problem he has in Kashmir is no more than a small fringe of young people gone berserk. Otherwise all's well with Kashmir and Lord Rama is peacefully ensconsed on the altar of his Janambhoomi [birthplace] temple site cluttered with the debris of what was the Babri Mosque. Shall we for a moment leave jokes aside and take stock of the reality on the ground? For four long years there is an uprising in Kashmir held by India. There is no civil administration of any description. It is martial law, through and through. Most of the cities are under curfew for most of the time. The troops operate under no law. They are free to enter, ransack and set private dwellings on fire. If the dwellers are burnt to ashes, never mind. Gangrapes are not by any means rare. Troops who can shoot at will are not hauled up for exceeding their terms of engagement. Maybe, they are not exceeding their orders. In order to bring this "small fringe" round, New Delhi has 450,000 troops in operation for four years. How very small a fringe it is, should be evident from the strength of the army in action. And, this is only a "difficult" sort of problem and nothing at all to worry about. Perhaps on some reflection, Mr Rao may be persuaded to see that he is nearly absolving Pakistan of its "alleged" massive interference, intervention and whatnot in India's Kashmiri preserves. After all, on Mr Rao's very own gentle reckoning, for all Pakistan's labours this country has not been able to muster anything but a small fringe. Call it a fleabite.

Blaming Pakistan for anything not going famously for India, be it Punjab, Kashmir, SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and now Gujerat, was once a sort of cover-up device. Now it is either policy or habit, probably both. Let's make a quick tour d' horizon. Sheikh Abdullah was a patriot, then 'prime minster' of (Occupied) Kashmir. Then, he was in goal, as traitor. His son had the same run of luck. First pampered, enthroned and crowned and then dethroned, cursed and consigned to the trash heap. Admire if you can the inspired strategy of getting Farooq Abdullah humilitated by his very own brother-in-law, husband of his very own dear sister. Where is that pretender now? In the dustbin. Kashmir is an "integral part" of the most populous democracy of the world. What kind of an advertisement is this 450,000 strong army on the rampage for the democracy of India? How do you explain a huge army on the run chased by a small fringe?

If we really have to talk of interference and intervention in other countries affairs, very well, Mr Rao. Who sent in regular army in what was East Pakistan, a province of a sovereign state? And what was the excuse? No more and no less than the plea that the people of East Pakistan were being mistreated. How well are you treating the Kashmiris who have the ill luck of having fallen under your control? Do you realise Mr Rao that the military deployed by your government in Kashmir is, if anything, larger in number than George Bush put into action in his Operation Desert Storm? And merely to deal with a small fringe? What about India's hand in the Chakma unrest to destabilise Bangladesh? If that is not interference, what is? Ask the Nepalese and the Bhutanese about the benign good neighbourliness of India. And what was a full-scale military action in Sri Lanka in aid of? Remember the story of Indian commandos 'rescuing' Maldives from hostile hordes which goodness alone knows who sponsored?

Mr Rao's government does not hesitate to blame the Ayodhya outrage and the carnage that followed in its wake upon Pakistan. Pakistani agents are very soon going to be paraded as the arch instigators and arms suppliers to the Shiv Sena of Mr Bal Thackarey and the Rashthriya Sawayam Sevak Sanghi of Mr Murli Manohar Joshi and the Bajrang Dal of some similar fascist character. When in trouble, play the Pakistan card. That has been the acme of India's political wisdom.

A word now for the fiction of Kashmir being "integral" part of India, so integral indeed as to be inseparable, come hell or high water. Was the Frontier province, the whole of Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan, and the whole of Bengal and Assam not inspearable part of India at one time? Who resided over the historic and unprecedented separation of these inseparables? If all these could be separable, and willingly given away, what's so awfully special about Kashmir? Paricularly when holding on to it means 450,000 troops, earning for India nothing but universal odium? When the British Prime Minister John Major told Mr Rao in New Delhi the other day to start a political process, was he really endorsing Mr Rao's position that Kashmir is an integral part of India? Or if it was always integral, why did Pandit Jawaharial Nehru agree to a plebiscite to determine whether the Kashmiris would join Pakistan or India? You don't give such choices to integral parts of your national anatomy, do you?.

Need for Nuclear Installation Protection Viewed

BK1002123993 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 6 Feb 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Nuclear Installations—the Need for Special Protection"]

[Text] Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of DPRK's Supreme People's Assembly, has said after Iraq, a threat of attack is looming over the nuclear installations of Pakistan, Iran, and DPRK. Therefore, it is imperative that the Third World countries having nuclear capability should unite together to face the threat from the United States. The United States has launched a drive to eliminate the nuclear arms race. But, it has been aimed at Muslim countries only, or such governments with whom it has some sort of discord. This proves that the United States is not pursuing any principled policy on the prevention

of the nuclear arms race. The liberty for Israel, India, and South Africa to manufacture nuclear weapons; frequent bombarment of Iraq on the pretext that it has manufactured nuclear and chemical weapons; and stormy propaganda and various threats of sanctions against Pakistan and Iran for their peaceful nuclear programs fit the analysis of Yang Hyong-sop. In the recent past, former chief of the army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, also cautioned that after Iraq it would now be the turn of Pakistan and Iran because, under its new world order, the United States wants to check any Muslim force from becoming a major power and it might do anything to achieve this end. Under these circumstances, Pakistan should take extraordinary steps to protect its nuclear installations because, an excellent system of defense guarantees elimination of aggression.

Ministers on Army Role in Sindh, Stand on Kashmir

BK1002145993 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The National Assembly was informed today that the law and order situation has improved in Sindh as a result of Operation Clean-up. Giving a policy statement in the house, the interior minister, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, said thousands of dacoits [robbers], patharidars [harborers of antisocial elements], and antisocial elements have been wiped out during the operation. He said the army is handling the situation in an excellent manner and the operation is going on successfully without any political victimization. The minister said a decision would soon be taken on the question of withdrawal of army from Sindh in consultation with the provincial government. In another policy statement about the recent bomb blast in Hyderabad, the interior minister said that antistate elements wanted to create uncertainty in the country. He said an investigation team has arrested about 42 suspects in this connection for interrogation and the culprits would soon be identified.

The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, during question hour informed the house that the government policy with regard to Kashmir is based on the universally accepted principles of justice and fairness. Pakistan has vigorously pleaded the case of Kashmiri brethren at all multilateral fora and in bilateral meetings with the world leaders.

The house adopted a bill further to amend Exclusive Fisheries Zone Regulation of Fishing Act 1975. The house will now meet tomorrow morning.

Sri Lanka

Government Announces Easing of Emergency Laws

BK1102111493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0956 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Colombo, Feb 11 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government announced Thursday the easing of tough emergency laws but denied the move was aimed at preempting international criticism at an upcoming United Nations meeting on human rights.

The relaxation of "harsh" regulations was put into effect last week after a prolonged study by an academic group taking note of concerns expressed by international human rights groups, a top official here said.

Bradman Weerakoon, international relations advisor to President Ranasinghe Premadasa, said circumstances had changed over the years and the government had been looking at ways of "making some of the regulations less onerous."

In an extraordinary gazette, the government revoked a regulation which empowered the president to nominate any persons to make arrests. It will also now be mandatory for security forces to inform a judge about those in detention.

The commissioner general of essential services was stripped of his powers to take over private property and security forces have been compelled to issue receipts for people arrested during search operations.

Weerakoon denied the move was related to next week's United Nations Human Rights commission meeting in Geneva where he would have to defend Sri Lanka's human rights record.

"It was not specifically for the (Geneva) meeting. Maybe you can say the timing was good," Weerakoon said.

Western donors have often tried to link aid to Sri Lanka to an improvement in the island's human rights record—a demand resisted by Colombo.

The emergency was first imposed in March 1983 to put down a violent campaign by separatist Tamil guerrillas and has been relaxed for brief periods since.

Minority Tamil groups have begun lobbying in Geneva, claiming "increasingly widespread violations of the rules of humanitarian law" by Sri Lankan security forces.

Tamil lobbyists in a statement said: "In the east, whole villages of Tamils have been attacked by the army and the so-called Home Guards. Many Tamil residents in these villages were killed."

Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), is leading a violent campaign to establish a homeland in the island's northeast where thousands have died in bitter fighting.

Security Forces Liberate 23,000 Villages

BK1002120793 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The security forces are going all out to defeat the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and have beefed up their strength towards this end. The general officer commanding of the Joint Operations Command, General Hamilton Wanasinghe, said that the blockade of the Jaffna lagoon was continuing and all efforts by LTTE Sea Tigers to destroy the naval base at Nagathevanthurai

had proved abortive and six dingies and a speed boat had been destroyed. A large number of Tigers have also been killed.

Meanwhile, Gen. Wanasinghe disclosed that 23,000 Sinhala, Tamil, and Muslim villages have been liberated by the Army in Operation Black Hawk last week. He said the operation liberated 80 square kilometers from the Tigers, 5,000 acres belonging to the Vavuniya Tamil Division where the people and their produce captured and were living under conditions of near starvation. [sentence as heard] The villages liberated include Marakkalampullai, Thenkadipatti, and Ranadakulam. There were also 400 Muslim families rescued and 89 families in the Sinhala south division.

Naval patrol crafts, in the meantime, engaged an LTTE flotilla comprised approximately 20 fiberglass boats and the Navy destroyed about 10. Six boats (?fitted with) outboard motors were recovered. He said that 34 bags of white sugar and 65 bags of rice had been recovered by the Navy suggesting that the LTTE was engaged in a supply (?run) when the flotilla was engaged.

Group Says Government Tries To Gag Independent Press

BK1002120493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1018 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Colombo, Feb 10 (AFP)—A leading organisation campaigning for media rights Wednesday accused the Sri Lankan government of carrying out a "massive campaign" to gag independent newspapers.

"The government is trying to gag a number of independent newspapers by restricting their advertising revenue and by administrative pressures," the Free Media Movement (FMM) said in a statement here.

It said "this massive campaign" by the goverment had affected the two largest privately-owned newspaper groups, Wijeya Publications Ltd. and Upali Newspapers Ltd. and several radical journals.

The FMM said that the authorities had asked a number of major private companies to stop advertising in the national dailies and weeklies published by the two major private newspaper groups.

Wijeya Publications is the publisher of the weekly SUNDAY TIMES while Upali Newspapers brings out the daily ISLAND newspaper. Both groups also publish dozens of other popular newspapers and tabloids in the Sinhalese language.

The FMM said that Inland Revenue Department officials carried out raids on the offices of these newspapers which were also suddenly subjected to intensive inquiries by municipal, water resources board and telecommunications officials.

"The meaning of all these actions... is to gag all non-government newspapers. If the government achieves its aims it might result in the burial of even the limited democracy that exists in the country," the FMM said.

The movement denied government allegations that the FMM was a tool in the hands of opposition political parties and Sinhalese extremists. "The main objective of the movement is to defend and widen the freedom of the media."

The FMM has staged a series of protests and meetings to highlight the threats faced by the journalists in Sri Lanka including police attacks on reporters and photographers who cover opposition demonstrations.

Inflation Rate Reported Highest in Region

BK1102090793 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Sri Lanka has the highest inflation rate in South Asia; it stood at 11 percent last year—although it ranks highest in the per capita income of $470—a conference of South Asian Federation of Accountants, SAFA, was told last month. A paper presented at the conference by a Bangladeshi accounting expert also said that the countries of SAFA were characterized by essentially low-income economy, on the basis of World Bank per capita income classification. The paper added that Sri Lanka ranks the highest with the per capita GDP, followed by Pakistan and India with $380 and $350 respectively, while those of Bangladesh and Nepal are $210 and $170 respectively. Mr. Anwaruddin Chowdhury said in his presentation to the conference the annual GDP growth rate was 6.4 percent, 5 percent, 4 percent, 3.6 percent, 2.5 percent respectively for Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and India. According to a World Development Report 1992, he added, inflation rate is highest in Sri Lanka at 11 percent, followed by nine percent—now five percent—in Bangladesh, nine percent in Nepal, eight percent in India, and seven percent in Pakistan. The ADB [Asian Development Bank] has forecast that Pakistan is estimated to be South Asia's gross leader with GDP predictions of 6.7 percent and 7.2 percent for 1992 and 1993. Sri Lanka comes second with estimates of 5.9 percent and 5.6 percent respectively.